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Mubarak dissolves upper house

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak dissolved Egypt's upper house, the Consultative Shura Council, Saturday and called for elections in June under a new system aimed at making it more democratic. The council, one third of whose members are appointed by the government, has no legislative powers but studies government financial bills and recommends new regulations to the People's Assembly (parliament). The elections will be held under amended electoral rules designed to counter challenges to the validity of the law under which the council was elected nine years ago. Political parties and independents will be allowed to stand for election to a new 250-seat council, expanded from 210 members, and will win a seat by simple majority vote. Under the old system, Egyptians voted for party lists and a party had to poll at least eight per cent of the total popular vote to gain representation. The number of seats a party won was determined by the proportion of its votes in each constituency. Apart from independents, the council is likely to be contested by six groupings — the ruling National Democratic Party, the centre-right New Wafd Party, the leftist Unionist Progressive Party, the Liberal Socialist Party, the Islamic Umma Party and an alliance of the Socialist Labour Party and the Muslim Brotherhood.

Khashoggi seeks release

BERN (AP) — Lawyers for imprisoned Saudi arms dealer and financier Adnan Khashoggi will ask Switzerland's highest court next week to order his release, one of the attorneys said Saturday. Khashoggi, through his lawyers, has denied U.S. charges against him. In a statement distributed to Swiss media Friday, the attorneys vowed to fight his extradition to the United States "with all means at their disposal." Swiss counsel Ralph Zloccow said Saturday that he and Khashoggi's American lawyers would submit a protest against their client's imprisonment and a request for immediate release from custody to the federal tribunal, Switzerland's supreme court, within the legal 10-day limit expiring at the end of next week. However, Swiss officials have said a release is unlikely to be granted before authorities receive and consider a formal U.S. extradition demand. U.S. officials have said a request will be filed within Switzerland's 60-day deadline after Khashoggi's arrest, but they have not indicated when. Swiss police arrested and jailed Khashoggi in Bern last Tuesday on U.S. charges forwarded by the local embassy. A New York Court has indicted him on racketeering and other charges for allegedly helping former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and his wife Imelda hide at least \$103 million in art and property plundered from the Philippines.

King voices peace hope, says Israel must shift stand

NEW YORK (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein has said he was more hopeful than ever about prospects for a settlement in the Middle East, but Israel must be prepared to further the peace process if it is to succeed.

"There is a confluence of events that the world has seen in the recent past. There is a mood. There is a sense of direction. There is a determination to resolve problems," the King said in a televised interview. The King, on the final leg of a U.S. visit which included talks with President George Bush, said he believed the new U.S. leader had been insights into the Middle East situation. "I believe he does see it very clearly," he said. "He's a man I respect and admire, an old friend."

In answer to a question on the Palestinian election plan put forward by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the King said: "I don't believe that elections per se are a solution to the problem. Elections under whose auspices?"

The proposals call for the election of Palestinian representa-

tives who would go on to conduct talks with Israel in what has been called a "two-stage" peace process. Asked by the interviewer if he supported such a process, the King replied: "I have enormous difficulties with supporting the concept of so-called transitional arrangements." He reaffirmed Jordan's position that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He said it was now up to Israel to rise to the challenge of reaching a settlement. "Everybody is ready. It's Israel's turn to be ready," he said. King Hussein arrived here Friday evening. Later he received at his residence U.S. Permanent Representative to the U.N. Thomas Pickering and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth in the presence of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Royal Court Chief

Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. The King also met with senior U.N. officials.

The King wound up his visit to the United States Saturday by reiterating that the prospects for peace in the Middle East were better now than they have been in recent years but there is still a long way to go.

The major stumbling block is Israel's continued refusal to accept the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, he told a special convocation at Boston University.

"It is with both relief and trepidation that I can report the prospects for peace are better than they have been in recent years but they are by no means as good as they should or could be," he said.

"In terms of progress toward peace, I believe the Arabs have come a long way," he said. "While the Arabs and Palestinians have been moving forward toward peace, Israel has gone in the opposite direction."

He repeated his longstanding view that the remaining major obstacle to achieving peace is "to persuade Israel to recognise the rights of the Palestinians and to agree to negotiate with their ac-



HM King Hussein

knowledge leadership."

He also criticised Israel for refusing to participate in an international conference, presided over by the United Nations and including representatives of the PLO, to devise a comprehensive peace plan for the region.

"The only conclusion one can reach is that Israel... fears negotiations," he said.

The King told the Boston audience that he is fully prepared to support further efforts by Bush to search for a comprehensive peace agreement.

"I must say that I was impressed with the sense of purpose and determination in the approach to this problem President Bush conveyed during our conversation," he said.

"I shall be returning home secure in the belief that despite the obstacles I have described, a peaceful resolution to this conflict is attainable," he said.

The King was in Boston to receive an honorary doctor of law degree from Boston University, which is establishing a satellite campus in Jordan.

Regent reiterates commitment to dialogue, raps 'wanton violence'

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff

AMMAN — The Jordanian leadership remains committed to public dialogue over the Kingdom's economic situation and the measures the government had to impose to enable itself to meet its financial obligations, but violent reactions and pressure against the new measures will not help achieve anything, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Saturday.

"It is a sad moment for me; a moment of anguish. On the one side I am inviting dialogue, a civilised response; on the other everything one sees jeopardises this," said the Regent addressing a press conference at the Royal Palace.

The Regent deplored the "wanton violence" which hit the southern towns of Ma'an, Karak and Tafilah and Salt in the wake of the recent hikes in prices of several commodities.

"I hope we can transcend the phase of the law and order aspect of it effectively with the use of minimum necessary force" and initiate dialogue on the situation and measures warranted by an austerity programme aimed at redressing the Kingdom's economic problems, the Regent said.

But "the violence should stop," he said. "Security is the basis of everything... it cannot be compromised."

"We are not going to be deterred by the use of violence pressures from obviating the economic problem," he reaffirmed.

The Crown Prince said eight people, including two security officers, were killed and 89, including 47 security officers, were wounded in the violence in the south.

One of the reasons it took long to contain the situation in the south was the use of limited force by the security forces to avoid "a robust firefight (which could) lead to unnecessary loss of life," the Regent said. "After all, these are our people; we are talking about. We are not occupying

anyone's land; it's not a confrontation with some foreign, hostile power. It's obviously an outburst of high emotions."

The Crown Prince told the midday press conference that His Majesty King Hussein was expected to return home within 48 hours.

"Clearly, the return of His Majesty, the measures and decisions that would be taken... will decide the national mood," he added.

The Regent referred to Friday's events in Salt. "We had a small demonstration of feelings by the young people and the governor took the initiative of calling in local representatives and addressing them. They left... as you know, it is Ramadan. In addition to everything a fairly hot April, and feelings have been running quite high... a demonstration took place... one thing led to another and we had a repetition of... gunfire from the young people in Salt," he said.

"We suffered injuries again in Salt but no fatalities. And today things are quiet there."

The Regent urged the press to "try to look at the main thing on the agenda, which is the question of the financial obligations of Jordan, the administration... the management... and the role of the government."

"I hope the silver lining in the event is the perception that stability is our shared concern," he said. Referring to the damage to public and private property that was caused in the past week, the Regent said: "I think there is a misguided impression among the young people that attacking banks, somehow, reduces one's indebtedness."

"There has been wanton destruction of property," he said. "The destruction of the children's forest in Naour, the destruction of a centre for the distribution of food..."

"I understand the moving of food," said the Regent. "But why burn it?" "Obviously, there's a lot of violence in the region," he said. "We feel it, we live with it, near it. It's a combina-

Arab leaders contact Regent

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday received telephone calls from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Sudanese head of state Ahmed Ali Mirghani. The three leaders inquired about the situation in Jordan and expressed support for the Kingdom.

tion of political, social, economic challenges..."

"Everything has been happening so fast," the Regent said. "The creation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) on the one side, the continuous contacts with Arab leaders... Jordan has become a lynchpin in the area. It is a lynchpin and a catalyst in the ACC context."

Within the context of the economic programme and the subsequent unrest, the Regent said, "investigations are under way. Obviously, there are opportunities for the extremes in the left and right."

The Crown Prince rejected Israeli media portrayal of the events in Jordan on the same level with the 16-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

"It is clear that the Israeli media will be delighted by all that happens in Jordan and by any sign of instability," he said. "Israel will use that to show that violence in the Arab World has no justification except a desire for violent terror."

"Regrettably, this Israeli approach in media has been very successful since the establishment of the Israeli state. And the Western media take the Israeli version and exaggerate it. This is a media challenge for us. Can our media stand up to that challenge...?"

The Regent criticised the handling of the economy by past governments. "Over a succession of governments for the past 15 years there has been a poor choice of economic priorities and poor economic management," he said.

The Regent said Jordan was determined to pursue the implementation

of the economic reform programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and did not expect the latest events in Jordan to have any bearing on the accord, which is "not intended to punish Jordan" but to assist the Kingdom restructure its financial obligations.

The Regent expected parliamentary elections to be held before the end of this year. "We have a long agenda," he said. "I would like to see dialogue institutionalised as soon as possible. Clearly, this has to take place within this year."

On another note, the Regent again referred to parliamentary life in Jordan.

"We have been trying for a very long period of time to institutionalise reform and change," he said. "Of course there is every desire to see Parliament return... but again my question is: If and when parliament returns, is the new parliament going to be a parliament of stagnation or is it going to be a parliament that is going to address these programmes — sophisticated economic reform programmes?"

On freedom of press in Jordan, the Regent reaffirmed his commitment to "open dialogue, intellectual dialogue, dialogue which respects the opposite (point of) view."

One of the reporters at the press conference asked whether television crew would be allowed to visit the areas of unrest. The Crown Prince said he would welcome the idea, but he warned, "don't end up asking for theatrical performances" for the benefit of cameras.

14 shot and wounded in Gaza

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies) — Troops shot and wounded at least 14 Palestinians in day and night clashes with stone-throwers in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip, hospital staff said Saturday.

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip staged a general strike, halting transport and closing shops following a call by underground leaders of the uprising.

The army closed the entire West Bank south of Jerusalem to journalists without explanation. The order came after the death Friday of a Palestinian shot in a bloody raid on Nahalin village in the West Bank.

The 23-year-old was the fifth

to die due to the raid by border guards on Nahalin last week. Human rights groups said the guards used unwarranted force. Residents said they opened fire without provocation.

In the most serious incident in Gaza, nine Palestinians were wounded by army gunfire — two seriously — in Rafah refugee camp during a nighttime protest, Nasr hospital officials said.

A 14-year-old girl was shot in the chest, her third gunshot wound since the start of the 16-month Palestinian uprising, doctors said.

Other clashes broke out at sunset Friday, after Muslims broke their daily Ramadan fast,

and Saturday morning. Soldiers and Palestinians clashed in Jabalya refugee camp, Beit Hanoun and parts of Gaza City.

Hospitals said they treated several boys for beatings and a 15-year-old teenager from Sheikh Radwan shot when he reportedly went out during curfew.

Arabs marched through the town of Umm Al Fahm to protest against the deaths in Nahalin, Israeli radio said.

In the West Bank, a convoy of left-wing activists led by parliamentarian Yossi Sarid of the Citizens' Rights Movement were turned back at an army checkpoint when they tried to

visit Nahalin village. On Friday, the Israeli army and police blocked hundreds of worshippers from attending prayer services in Jerusalem as armed Jewish settlers marched through the West Bank to demonstrate Israeli control over the land.

Nineteen Palestinians were reported wounded in stone-throwing clashes with Israeli troops in the occupied territories, including a three-year-old boy struck in the head with a rubber bullet in the West Bank's Askar refugee camp.

The child was in moderate condition at Al Itihad hospital in nearby Nablus, doctors said.

Beirut exodus continues

Kuwait denies Lebanon peace force proposal

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Saturday denied that the Arab League peace committee on Lebanon had proposed sending a pan-Arab peacekeeping force to halt the current clashes there.

"There are no proposals at all for deploying an Arab deterrent force in Lebanon," Sheikh Sabah, who heads the six-member committee trying to stop bloody factional fighting and end the 14-year-old civil war.

Foreign ministers of the 22-member Arab League are due to meet in emergency session in Tunis next Wednesday to discuss the committee's peace plan.

Kuwaiti papers, usually reliable, reported Friday the committee would suggest to the league that a pan-Arab force be deployed in Lebanon as a buffer between warring parties until a political settlement took effect.

The reports said the committee was sounding out Syrian reaction to the proposal. Syria keeps an estimated 40,000 troops there under a 1976 Arab League peace-keeping mandate.

The current clashes pit army commander Michel Aoun's troops, the Syrians and Lebanese militia allies.

Christian Lebanese politicians who held talks with the committee in Kuwait earlier this month said they would drop a demand that the Syrians stage a complete withdrawal from Lebanon before political reforms are effected.

The politicians said they would accept a gradual Syrian pull-out under the supervision of a pan-Arab force so that a new president can be elected and the reforms introduced.

The Arab committee, which groups the foreign ministers of Kuwait, Tunisia, Algeria, Jordan, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates, was set up in January to sound out the warring factions in Lebanon on a political settlement.

Sheikh Sabah also stressed the Lebanese crisis should be resolved by the Arab League.

"The Arab panel did not ever ask for the internationalisation of the Lebanese problem because the Arab League is the sole party which should work out a political solution to the Lebanese problem," he said.

Sheikh Sabah said, however, he was in contact with United

Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the French government and some permanent members of the U.N. Security Council on handling the situation.

He said the committee's efforts were backed by Western European countries and that an offer by Perez de Cuellar to visit Beirut "is in itself an evidence of this support and interest in what is going on in Lebanon."

Members of the U.N. Security Council members met in private Friday to consider a new appeal for a Lebanese ceasefire thought to have been initiated by France.

Exodus continues

Hundreds of Lebanese fled fighting Saturday when a ferry sailed for Cyprus for the first time since a gauntlet of shellfire turned it back six days ago.

The ferry Baroness left Jounieh, the Christian enclave's only link with the outside world, as scores of shells rained down on the port and rumours spread that

fighting was set to grow fiercer. About 650 people crowded onto the ferry after overnight artillery exchanges in Beirut to the south.

About 15 shells slammed into the hilltop area of Baabda, site of the presidential palace, in south-east Beirut and into nearby Hadath.

Most Lebanese believe artillery battles will escalate before the scheduled meeting in Tunis Wednesday of the Arab League foreign ministers.

More than 300,000 of Beirut's 1.5 million people have fled the battered capital as shells demolished buildings and cut electricity and water supplies.

Patriarch Butros Stair, Lebanon's highest Christian Maronite authority, appealed for U.S. help to end the fighting.

"We are in need of greater and more efficient intervention. The United States must intervene strongly to put an end to the war," he told Visnews television news agency.

Little progress in Gulf peace talks

GENEVA (R) — The foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq met Saturday for the second time in a week in fresh but so far unsuccessful efforts to break deadlock in the Gulf peace talks.

The session of the so-called "proximity talks" chaired by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was scheduled for Friday but was postponed without explanation.

The delay fuelled speculation in Geneva that political infighting in Tehran could have undermined the position of Iran's top negotiator, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

But Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Rafsanjani told worshippers at Friday prayers in Tehran that he had full authority to take decisions.

Before the session, which started two hours late and was attended by the full delegations of both sides, Velayati had a second meeting in two days with Perez de Cuellar. The U.N. chief also met separately with Iraq's top delegate, Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

The two belligerents, who began their latest round of peace talks on Thursday, remain split on which provisions of a 10-point U.N. peace plan should be given priority.

Iran wants Iraqi troops to evacuate Iranian territory still occupied despite last August's U.N.-brokered ceasefire which ended eight years of fighting.

Iraq insists priority should be given to clearing the Shatt Al Arab, its main outlet to the sea, of war debris and to an exchange of some 100,000 war prisoners.

Iraqi officials have said their plight should be separated from an overall settlement and viewed as a humanitarian issue, a view shared by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Only several hundred prisoners have so far been repatriated.

Iraq denies involvement in missile project

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A senior official denied Saturday that Iraq was involved in developing a long-range missile which Israel contends could carry nuclear weapons.

"We strongly deny reports that Iraq, Egypt and Argentina are cooperating to produce a surface-to-surface missile... those reports are mere illusion, completely incorrect and do not deserve any reply," said Lieutenant-General Amer Al Saadi.

Saadi, under-secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialisation, added: "I call on those who propagandise such reports to give a single (piece of) evidence to prove their allegations."

NBC television, quoting U.S. intelligence sources, reported in March that Egypt had received money from Iraq to help to finance the Condor II missile project.

Military sources in Israel contended Condor II was a joint project for the Argentine, Egyptian and Iraqi armies and Israel feared it could carry a nuclear warhead.

The missile, which has not yet been test-fired, is expected to have a range of 1,000 kilometres, sufficient to reach Israel from Iraq.

Iraq is still technically at war with Israel, which bombed a nuclear reactor being built near Baghdad in 1981 charging that Iraq was trying to produce nuclear weapons there.

Iraq's air force chief, Marshal Hameed Shaaban, was quoted Saturday as warning Israel that Baghdad would retaliate against any attack. Iraq says the reactor was built for peaceful purposes.



South African soldiers deployed at a camp at Oshikanyaga, on Namibia's border with Angola, near a U.N. assembly point.

SWAPO pullout could be over by Friday

LUANDA, (R) — The Namibian nationalist group SWAPO said Saturday all of its guerrillas remaining in Namibia could withdraw into Angola by next Friday if they were not obstructed by South African forces.

The group reacted cautiously to South Africa's statement Friday that it would confine its troops in Namibia to their bases for 60 hours from next Wednesday, to allow SWAPO fighters to pull out.

"We are waiting to see on the ground if that is what really happens," Hinaanyie Shafodino Nehova, Deputy Information Secretary of SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organisation), told Reuters in Luanda.

The South African offer followed complaints by SWAPO and its allies Angola and Cuba that South African-led troops and

police were preventing SWAPO guerrillas from crossing into Angola, under a withdrawal plan worked out April 9.

"As long as there are no obstacles created by the South African army to impede our troops from withdrawing to Angola, we could successfully complete our withdrawal by next Friday," Nehova said.

South Africa, Angola and Cuba had agreed that SWAPO guerrillas should withdraw from Namibia to Angola to end fierce fighting with South African-led troops and police that broke out April 1, the day a U.N. independence process for Namibia began.

SWAPO accused South African forces of hunting down its guerrillas as they tried to pull back. South African, Angolan and Cuban officials held emergency talks Thursday.

Nehova said some 800 SWAPO guerrillas had so far crossed from Namibia into Angola, where they were being confined to bases north of the 16th Parallel, 150 kilometres from the border. He could not say how many were still in Namibia.

He said SWAPO would be satisfied if South African troops remained in their Namibia bases and then withdrew to South Africa, as laid down under U.N. Security Council Resolution 435.

"We are not pessimistic... we still believe that the process at long last will continue," he added.

South Africa has said it must be satisfied that all SWAPO fighters are out of Namibia and securely confined to bases in Angola before continuing with the independence plan.



A wounded man is carried by two civil defence workers and a policeman to a motorboat which Friday ferried 70 casualties from the port of Sidon to a French hospital vessel anchored five kilometres off the Lebanese coast.

Relief agencies say Afghan food supplies running out

By Sharon Herbaugh
The Associated Press

KABUL — Hundreds of veiled women wait outside an abandoned schoolhouse for bags of flour and sugar that will provide their families with food for the next two weeks.

Their children, all younger than five, huddle close by. Some of the women clutch torn plastic bags and rusting buckets to carry the rations home. Others simply hold up cupped hands.

There are many women and children in Kabul facing severe deprivations in the 11-year-old civil war. Only the poorest of them, however, will be eligible for emergency rations distributed by a United Nations relief programme called "Operation Salamm" (peace).

And relief workers say they don't know how much longer they'll be able to help, because their stockpile will be depleted by the end of the month.

"We make no illusions that we are even able to begin to handle the need. We are not solving the problem," said Ross Mountain of the United Nations Development Programme. The agency is one of five U.N. organisations involved in the project. The others are the U.N. aid coordinator's office, UNICEF, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Bank.

Relief workers have handed

out 10-kilogramme bags of flour, three-kilogramme bags of sugar and supplies of medicine and blankets to an estimated 33,500 hungry families since the programme began in February.

They also have given fertiliser to farmers hoping to start planting fields destroyed by fighting between army troops and the rebels trying to oust the government. But relief workers say the fertiliser will run out within a few days.

Before civil war broke out following a coup in April 1978, Afghanistan was self-sufficient in food. But the fighting has destroyed fields and orchards and forced the government to import about one million tonnes of wheat annually.

Moscow has donated 175 tonnes of wheat and flour and about 235 tonnes of sugar to Operation Salamm. Relief workers say that will last through the end of the month. "We tell people there will be more for them the next time. We just don't know when the next time will be," said one local aid worker.

Dozens of Soviet military transport planes descend on the capital daily, from sunrise to sunset, each dropping a cascade of flares designed to deflect heat-seeking missiles fired by rebels entrenched around the capital. The huge blue-and-white planes carry food and supplies.

Western countries, which

pulled their diplomats out of Afghanistan just before the Feb. 15 withdrawal of the last Soviet soldiers in the country, have refused direct assistance to the government, which they do not recognise. They help indirectly through the United Nations, however.

Kabul, a city of 2.25 million people, has been suffering severe shortages of food and fuel since late January.

Bread lines that once stretched for blocks have eased, and there are plenty of fruit and vegetables in the markets. The poor, however, cannot afford the skyrocketing prices.

Supply routes

Heavy snow, avalanches and rebel attacks have intermittently cut off two vital supply routes to the capital: the Salang Highway, running north to the Soviet border, and the Jalalabad highway, to the east to Pakistan.

"The extremists do not stay idle, or let convoys come to Kabul," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani. "The leaders of the extremists have no chance in face-to-face fighting with the armed forces, so they resort to their old tricks of causing trouble for the convoys."

Fighting between the military and the guerrillas closed the Salang Highway for nearly two weeks this month, stalling a 1,300-truck convoy about 50 kilometres north of

Kabul and leaving dozens of containers of food rotting on the Soviet border.

Convoys also have had trouble travelling between the Pakistani border and Kabul because of the rebel assault on the city of Jalalabad. The city, which once had a population of 65,000, has been pounded by tens of thousands of rockets and heavy artillery since the siege began March 6.

Although the road has now been for a week, trucks have been unable to pass through the city because of the fighting. The road difficulties are an important reason for the rise in food prices. Seven kilogramme bags of flour cost about 80 Afghanis (40 U.S. cents) in January. Now the cost is 850 Afghanis (about \$3.25).

Rebel leaders based in Pakistan predicted they would take power in Afghanistan within weeks of the final pullout of Soviet forces. But the constant Soviet airlift has enabled President Najibullah's government to hold out against them.

The airlift, however, brings less than half the 650 tonnes of flour that Kabul needs daily. Diplomats say the rebels have made blockading urban centres a major tactic in their fight to overthrow Najibullah.

They say the rebels apparently hope to starve cities into surrender than risk the frontal assaults that government forces have repulsed with heavy losses in Jalalabad.



A child rushes home with fuel after venturing out during a fuel lull in the Beirut fighting.

U.S. supports Arab efforts in Lebanon

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. government spokesman said Friday the United States was energetically supporting an Arab League proposal for ceasefire in Lebanon.

"We very strongly support this effort by the Arab League and we're very encouraged by the reports that we've seen" about it, State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters Friday.

He added that the United States was "engaged in an energetic initiative to support the Arab League... we're talking to the Syrians, we're talking to the Lebanese, we're talking to the Syrians, we're talking to the Lebanese and our support that it go forward."

He described the Arab League proposal as "a peace plan" that involves ceasefire negotiations with Syria on its role in Lebanon and a dialogue among Lebanese leaders for political reform.

Taking issue with a reporter who characterised the Arab League proposal as futile, Boucher said "obviously, it's making some kind of progress." At the White House, President George Bush met a group of Lebanese-American leaders, and across the street 2,000 people demonstrated to urge Bush administration to use pressure to get Syria to withdraw its troops from Lebanon.

Presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters the United States would like to see a ceasefire and "an end to violence on all sides by all parties."

Ex-Shin Bet official urges Israel-PLO talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A former high-ranking official in the secret Shin Bet security service said Israel can never crush the Palestinian rebellion in the occupied territories and must open a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to end the violence.

"The reality is that the PLO is the dominant force (in the occupied territories) and a factor that Israel cannot run away from," said Yossi Ginosar in an interview with Israel Television.

Ginosar, 44, was one of 11 top level Shin Bet agents accused of fabricating evidence and lying to government panels of inquiry in the beating deaths of two captured Palestinians in April 1984. President Chaim Herzog pardoned Ginosar and the other agents in June 1986 and Shin Bet head Avraham Shalom resigned in exchange for amnesty.

Ginosar said the 16-month Palestinian uprising that has left dead at least 444 Palestinians was a "civil rebellion, it's a popular uprising" that can only end through negotiations with the PLO.

"I do not believe that there is a professional military way to end the problem of the uprising," he

said. "If there are measures that can bring temporary quiet it must be realised that the quiet will only be temporary."

He said the Shin Bet and the army were taking all reasonable measures to reduce the violence.

Ginosar said Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's proposal to hold elections in the occupied territories to choose a local Palestinian leadership was "only a tactical move" to delay talks with the PLO.

"The elected representatives will not be able to negotiate with Israel but will turn us to the address in Tunis," he said referring to PLO headquarters.

The Shin Bet is responsible for "security" in Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. It is also responsible for the interrogation of thousands of Palestinians detained or arrested during the uprising.

Palestinians have long accused the Shin Bet of using beatings and torture to extract confessions.

After resigning from the Shin Bet, Ginosar was appointed director of the government-owned Israel export institute. He now works as an exporter with a large Israeli company.

Israelis expel 60 families from S. Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — Israel has expelled 60 families from seven farms around the town of Shiba in southern Lebanon allegedly for refusing to sell their land to the Zionist state, the daily Al Nahar reported Saturday.

The newspaper said a 500-strong Israeli force backed by 30 armoured personnel carriers stormed the farms Friday and rounded up 300 people.

"The commander told the farmers they have either to sell their 16-square-kilometre land to Israel or give it up," the paper said.

It quoted unnamed residents as saying the Israelis opened fire to force the farmers out, but that no casualties were reported.

The farmers loaded their belongings on 300 mules and left for Shiba, along with their 30,000 goats and 500 cows, Al Nahar said.

Police could not immediately confirm the report and officials

with the United Nations peacekeeping force in South Lebanon could not be reached by telephone.

Shiba lies within a 10-to-16-kilometre strip that Israel controls in South Lebanon and refers to as its "security zone."

Israel expelled 70 Lebanese civilians from Shiba and several villages in the "security zone" earlier this year for refusing to cooperate with the area's Israeli-sponsored local "administration."

Israel carved out the zone when it withdrew the bulk of its occupation army from South Lebanon in summer 1985.

The strip extends from the Mediterranean coast in the west to the foothills of Mount Hermon in the east.

The western entrance to Shiba is patrolled by Norwegian peacekeepers serving with the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon.

Khartoum seeks firm peace talks date

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Sudanese Foreign Minister Sid Ahmad Al Hussein said Saturday he was waiting for the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) to name a date for the resumption of peace talks.

Hussein told Reuters Khartoum had given the rebels all the relevant documents concerning the government's ratification of a draft peace agreement. The plan was shelved last November by the SPLA and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), a coalition partner in the present government.

"We also asked the SPLA to set a date for the government's peace committee to come to Addis Ababa to meet them, but so far we have received no reply," the foreign minister said.

"We have done all that could be done to initiate the peace talks, which we hope will bring about a ceasefire and the formation of a preparatory committee for a constitutional conference," he said. "The ball is now in their court."

A Sudanese government delegation held four days of preliminary talks with rebel representatives in Addis Ababa earlier this month, but the SPLA later described the encounter as disappointing.

The rebel movement has also complained that the Sudanese parliament did not ratify the peace accord in full. An SPLA spokesman, Nihal Deng Nehal, told Reuters Friday it had still not received all the necessary documents for formal peace talks to begin.

Hussein, who arrived in Addis Ababa Friday to explain the Sudanese government's peace initiative, left Saturday for Tanzania.

Shamir to seek European support for election plan

ROME (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said he would seek European support for his proposals for elections in the occupied territories when Italian Prime Minister Ciriaco de Mita visits Israel.

But in interviews published in Italian newspapers Saturday on the eve of de Mita's visit, he again ruled out an Israeli withdrawal from the territories, the establishment of a Palestinian state or talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"I am not asking Europe to mediate but for its political support," Shamir told Corriere della Sera.

"Its relations with the Arab World are very good at the moment and if it managed to persuade (the Arab World) to accept my proposals it would be a great step forward," he was quoted as saying.

De Mita's three-day visit starting Sunday will be the first by an Israeli leader since Shamir outlined his election plans to U.S. President George Bush.

Iranian newspapers mixed over outcome of fresh Geneva talks

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian newspapers expressed mixed views on the likely outcome of Gulf war peace talks in Geneva between Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers Saturday.

The English-language Tehran Times which is close to the Foreign Ministry, was pessimistic while the pro-government English-language Kayhan International, usually headline in foreign policy, said it was wrong to be negative.

"This round of talks is off to a bad start already as no agreement has been reached yet on what should be on the agenda," an editorial in the Tehran Times carried by the Iranian news agency IRNA said.

April 6. Arab leaders and the PLO have objected to the proposals, which Shamir said foresaw five years of interim self-government in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip under the umbrella of Israel and without PLO involvement.

"If the people elected declare themselves members of the PLO they will go to prison as Israeli law requires," Shamir told Corriere della Sera.

Asked if he would consider withdrawal from the occupied territories if that was the price of peace, Shamir said: "Absolutely not. You Europeans continue to fail to understand that for us these lands are not like Algeria for France or Libya for Italy 40 years ago. (They) are an integral part of our territory and we are not prepared to lose them."

"A Palestinian state has never existed and there is no space for one west of the Jordan. It would immediately aim to destroy Israel," he said. He also ruled out non-Israeli official supervision of

any poll. Italy Thursday supported a United Nations General Assembly denunciation of Israel's handling of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

It also supports calls for an international peace conference, opposed by Shamir, and was the first EC country to receive PLO leader Yasser Arafat after the proclamation last November of a Palestinian state.

Shamir told Corriere della Sera that he recognised Israeli and European differences over the Palestinian issue but said in a separate interview with the newspaper Il Giornale that his government would never negotiate with the PLO.

"We shall not talk to the PLO. Nobody can impose that on us, nobody can force us," Shamir said. He denied the United States was pressing him to implement the election by July. "Anyway, you know Shamir is immune to pressure," he added.

La Repubblica and Il Messaggero carried similar interviews.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

14:30 Koran
14:55 Children programmes
16:15 Cooking programme
16:30 Arabic series
17:30 Health programme
18:00 Religious period
18:25 Ramadan contest
18:40 Arabic series
19:00 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Religious series
22:35 Special programme on Ramadan
23:00 News in Arabic
23:15 Varieties

PROGRAMME TWO

18:40 Couilles
18:50 L'Ecole des Femmes
19:00 News in French
19:15 A documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Perfect Strangers
21:10 Captain James Cook
22:00 News in English
22:30 A Taste of Death

PRAYER TIMES

03:31 Fajr
04:54 (Sunrise) Duha

CHURCHES

11:34 Dhahr
15:12 'Asr
18:14 Maghrib
19:37 'Isha

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Saidia, Tel. 810740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 621366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625303

628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 717131

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

Rainbow Congregation Tel. 82605

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

A slight drop in temperatures will occur and scattered rain is expected in the southern and eastern parts of the country. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 14 / 29

Aqaba 23 / 36

Deserts 14 / 33

Jordan Valley 20 / 37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 13 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Adnan Zaghoul 898140

Dr. Fayez Jabbar 624257

Dr. Hussein Haddad 732357

Dr. Mahmud Al Awad 741391

Piras pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 788336

Al Asena pharmacy 637055

Nasrallah pharmacy 630750

Al Salam pharmacy 644945

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRRD:

Dr. Mohammad Al Za'bi (—)

Al Shamsa pharmacy 985238

ZARQA:

Dr. Rafeq Atallah (—)

Khalaf pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 620041

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 62209093

Blood Bank 775121

Police 643402

Traffic Police 65639091

Public Security Department 656000 / 685111

Hotel Complaints 603800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 661176

Amman Municipality 897467

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information 12

Overseas Calls 17

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 636381

Company 6812757

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-52000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 6442816

Akshid Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2

Isabel Amman Maternity 642362

Malha, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Mushtaq Hospital 6672279

The Islamic, Abdali 66812757

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646

Italian, Al-Muhajir 7771013

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7751126

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 6024050

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital 091983323

Zarqa National Hospital 091991071

Ibn Sina Hospital 091986732

IRRD:

Princess Basma Hospital 021275555

Green Catholic Hospital 02127275

Ibn Al Nafies Hospital 021247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital 033134111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN AL

Yaqoub Khan ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahebzadeh Yaqoub Khan left Amman Saturday at the end of a two day visit to Jordan during which he was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and had talks with senior officials.

The Pakistani minister who headed for Cairo said before departure that he discussed a number of issues including the Afghan problem for which His Majesty King Hussein had exerted strenuous efforts to solve. Other questions discussed here were the situation in the Middle East, current international efforts to find a solution for the Arab

Israeli conflict. Khan reiterated his country's support for the Palestinian people's cause and their legitimate rights in their homeland.

Khan said his country maintains very strong relations with Jordan and expressed his country's regret over the recent incidents in the Kingdom.

At his meeting with the Regent, which took place Friday night at the Royal Court, Khan reviewed bilateral ties and conveyed greetings from Pakistan's president and prime minister to the King and the Crown Prince.

Upon his departure Khan was seen off by acting Foreign Minister Marwan Duda and other officials.



Pakistani Foreign Minister Yaqoub Khan (second from left) is seen off by senior Foreign Ministry officials Saturday (Petra photo)

Nuclear research centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) has received a proposal from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources to set up a nuclear research centre so that it can benefit from the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, and promote development in the country.

The HCST Secretary General Dr. Adnan Badran said in a statement published in the local press recently.

The ministry hopes that such a centre would help contribute to the on-going research programmes for developing cereal production, protecting crops from pests and enabling Jordan to promote its industry. Badran said in the statement published by Al Dustour daily.

He said that a political decision can help the way for embarking on this project by the HCST which has a mere capital of JD 1.6 million.

However, the HCST has been helping the private sector in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society. RSS in other fields like the production of solar heaters for domestic use which saves a lot of fuel and hard currency. Badran said. He revealed that Jordan now has 32 plants that manufacture solar heaters and that nearly 20 per cent of the country's homes have installed these heaters which save electricity and fuel and provide hot water for free. The HCST and the RSS

have cooperated in supplying electric power to remove areas like Junf Al Darwish village which is now benefiting from electric power produced by solar and wind energy to pump water from underground to irrigate crops and for lighting homes, Badran noted.

The HCST, he said, serves as an umbrella for the scientific work and research done by the RSS and Jordanian universities.

The HCST finances certain research projects carried out by any of these institutions, thus reducing financial burdens on them and encouraging creative work by the researchers, Badran said. He noted that Jordan now has 1000 holders of Ph.D. degrees in science, medical sciences and applied sciences who can join the national efforts to develop their country and employ modern technology in this process.

The HCST, Badran, said was created to help draw up sound technological and scientific policies for the country, and so far it has succeeded in laying the infrastructure and creating scientific committees to work in industry, energy, agriculture, health environment and educational fields. He said that the HCST is also addressing the question of transferring modern technology to Jordan and developing education and creating skilled manpower to shoulder this responsibility.

Awqaf: Vaccinate before haj

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Saturday issued an invitation to Muslims wishing to perform this year's pilgrimage to Mecca to acquire vaccination against Meningitis.

A ministry official said that the Saudi Arabian authorities are now demanding that all pilgrims entering Saudi Arabia should hold a vaccination certificate against Meningitis issued at least 10 days before their visit to Saudi Arabia.

The Ministry of Health meanwhile has instructed all health departments in the Kingdom to provide a vaccination to the Jordanian pilgrims before their departure.

The ministry said that would-be pilgrims can visit health centres, get the vaccination and the certificates to produce to Saudi authorities. According to the official, the vaccination gives sufficient immunity to the pilgrims and protects them against the disease.

Earlier this month, a ministry official said Meningitis cases in Jordan are on the increase and that the Ministry of Health was carrying out a mass vaccination programme to immunise school students and conscripts against the killer disease. He revealed that between seven and eight Meningitis cases are reported in Jordan every month.

On April 12, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat announced that the Ministry of Awqaf has taken measures to facilitate the travel of Muslims

wishing to take part in the pilgrimage to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

Addressing a press conference, Khayyat said that 15,000 Muslims from the East and West Banks of Jordan as well as 4,300 pilgrims from Palestinian lands occupied since 1948, and 1,000 from the Gaza Strip will be allowed to make the pilgrimage.

The minister noted that registration for pilgrimage will be open until May 20.

The minister said that a pilgrim has to pay JD 356 for travelling by air-conditioned buses, an amount which covers accommodation in the holy places. The pilgrimage process is normally organised by the ministry in cooperation with Saudi Arabian authorities and local transport companies.

Jordan, Iraq hold talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — A follow-up committee charged by the joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee to implement bilateral agreements, opened a meeting here Saturday to review progress in joint projects and to look into means of further boosting cooperation in different fields.

The Jordanian side to the talks was led by Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary-General Mohammad Saqqaf and the Iraqi side by Dr. Faqf Al Rashoub, director general of the Iraqi development fund.

The two sides reviewed a number of steps taken by Amman and Baghdad leading towards integration and a number of resolutions and recommendations being followed up and implemented, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Petra said that the committee decided to set up three sub-committees one to deal with railway projects, another to look into promoting transport in general and a third to handle financial and trade issues.

Saqqaf said that the three sub-committees have already embarked on meetings to discuss means of coordination and integration in their specialised fields. He said that the joint committee will resume its meetings Sunday. According to a committee member, proposals for

building a railway line that would link Iraq and Jordan, removing obstacles in the path of cooperation in agricultural and industrial fields will be discussed at the two-day meeting.

Iraq has reportedly prepared studies on the railway project which would promote and facilitate transport between the two countries and that plans were being set for linking Iraq with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey.

The Iraqi-Jordanian meeting follows close on the heels of a meeting by the Iraq-Jordan Land Transport Company board which reviewed the general budget of last year and plans for 1989.



Jordanian and Iraqi delegations Saturday held talks at the Ministry of Industry and Trade (Petra photo).

JESORS — Resurrecting the retired

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Economic and Social Organisation for Retired Servicemen (JESORS) has invested JD 4 million in agricultural, industrial, commercial and development projects in addition to JD 4,070,000 spent on 27 construction projects, including schools, housing, storehouses and industrial compounds in various parts of Jordan, according to JESORS Director General Ali Al Ajjour.

Ajjour said the organisation includes 60,000 retired servicemen and that 76 per cent of them are below 50 years of age. However, he noted, they receive JD 30 million as pensionable salaries from the treasury every year.

JESORS was established in 1974 by virtue of a Royal Decree to organise the retired servicemen sector and to enable them to contribute to the development process in Jordan and to provide them with job opportunities inside and outside the country.

Regarding the organisation's projects, Ajjour said that the organisation has set up a farm for egg-laying hens at a cost of JD 500,000 in addition to another farm for broiler chicken at a cost of JD 450,000. The organisation also runs a milk cows farm, established by the Ministry of Agriculture in Deir area, and has developed it to accommodate 650

cows. The JESORS director general also noted that the organisation is working on the development of a fish farm in the Manshieh area in the north Jordan Valley, in cooperation with the Social Security Corporation (SSC) and the Pension Fund.

Ajjour stressed that JESORS focuses on agricultural projects, through exploiting Arab lands for growing grains and fodder in the badia areas where ground water exists.

Regarding industrial projects, Ajjour said the organisation has established an industrial complex in the Muqablain area, in the outskirts of Amman, including an integrated carpentry workshop, blacksmithy workshop and aluminium workshop. The organisation also set up a dairy product factory in Duleil area, which will produce sterilised milk for the first time.

On the organisation's commercial projects, Ajjour said that the organisation owns a number of commercial projects, including 10 buses with a capacity of carrying 50 people each, operating between Irbid and the Jordan University of Science and Technology, the Zarqa internal transport buses office, Queen Alia International Airport taxi, the fire extinguisher charging plant, as well as the carpet and furniture house. All these projects aim at finding job opportunities for retired ser-

vicemen and providing them with the necessary facilities. Ajjour noted.

In its efforts to support retired servicemen in the rural areas, the organisation also provides families of the martyrs and those wounded in military operations or the deceased with 260 high-yielding milk cows. The organisation has also provided in-cash assistance to the low-income families of the retired servicemen through the National Aid Fund.

Europarlamentarians end visit

Educational TV across the river discussed

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Work on televised educational programmes for students in the occupied territories is due to start soon, according to a member of the parliamentarian association for Euro-Arab cooperation delegation which ended their visit to Jordan Saturday.

"Dr. Ahmed Qatanani (director of the Foreign Ministry's Palestinian affairs department) told us that Jordan had no opposition to the principle of education on television," said head of the six-member delegation, Jacques Roger-Machart, at a press conference.

Machart, who is also the vice chairman of the association which has a membership of over 650 parliament members from 25 countries including the Council of Europe, said that Qatanani expressed concern over Israeli abuse of Palestinian education in the occupied territories, in particular during the past 17 months.

Machart said that the Jordanian authorities would agree to have the programmes aired on Jordan Television (JTV) if the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian Refugees and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) prepare the educational television package.

The deputy chief of external relations at UNRWA headquarters in Vienna, William Gaillard, also attending the press conference Saturday said that UNRWA was ready to embark on such a project and that UNRWA "has contacted the PLO" for this purpose.

Mohammed Milhem, PLO representative in Jordan, has agreed to "this alternative form of education... all that is left is the technical and practical aspects," Gaillard said.

"We asked the Jordanian government (about such a project) a month ago, now we have received our answer," he said.

These projects are expected to "only help and not solve the

education problem" in the occupied territories. The delegation, which returned to Amman after a two day visit to the occupied territories, also expressed serious concern with the education system there.

Since the intifada began in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, "over 318,000 children and teenagers have been deprived of their fundamental right to learn," Machart said, adding that students are prohibited from all forms of education, including education at home.

He said that it is unacceptable to exert such pressure on a whole population through its children, their intelligence and their cultural upbringing; and that no security pretext or necessity to protect Israeli armed forces or civilians can justify such deprivation of human rights.

On UNRWA's role in Palestinians' education Machart said: "Despite the harsh conditions, UNRWA has been doing a good job in providing education to Palestinians in the occupied territories."

According to Machart, members of the delegation will request their governments press on Israel to force it to apply the Fourth Geneva Convention. The convention, whose applicability to the occupied territories has been affirmed many times, protects civilian populations under occupation.

"We will ask our governments to call on Israel with utmost firmness to immediately lift these measures which are so obviously in contradiction with respect for human rights in general and the rights of the child in particular," Machart said.

During their stay in the occupied territories, the delegation witnessed many violations of human rights other than the closure of schools. These included "too long curfews, battering of children, destruction of homes, deportation and killing of Palestinian children," Machart said.

If these measures are still maintained by Israelis, "we will request

that our governments suspend the application of all bi-lateral cultural agreements which Israel."

It is the delegation's belief that by emphasising Palestinian deprivation of education, "all communities (in Europe), even the Jewish community, will understand (this violation) and will not criticise our position," he continued.

Rafael Estrella, a member of the delegation from Spain, said he hoped that by revealing to Europeans, who have a high regard for education, the obstacles Palestinian students face, pressure can be placed on Israel to remove these obstacles.

The parliamentarian association, which was established in 1974, also aims to promote Euro-Arab relations, in particular peace in the Middle East.

As an association, they support United Nations resolutions, the Geneva declaration and the Algerian Palestine National Council (PNC) resolutions. They also endorse Palestinians' right to self-determination, the right of Israel to exist and an international conference under U.N. auspices with all involved parties including the PLO, "the representative of the Palestinian people."

Referring to the European countries stand on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's elections proposal, Machart said, "we thought it was a trick so as not to recognise the PLO as the Palestinian people's representative."

"We agree with the PLO stand, which supports the principle of elections-not as the end of the (peace) process, but the beginning of it," he said, adding that at the end "it is up to the PLO to give an answer."

As to what the European countries will be doing for peace in the region in the coming months, Estrella said that these countries are "putting arguments on Israel." He believes that under the present circumstances, "the outside can not put conditions."

Petra, Saba exchange news

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan News Agency, Petra and the North Yemen News Agency (SABA) Saturday started an exchange of news programmes through a direct line established recently between the two agencies.

The step was taken in order to bolster information exchange between Jordan and North Yemen, both of which are members of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which was proclaimed in Baghdad on Feb. 16.

Petra is already linked via a direct line with the Iraqi News Agency and is about to establish a direct line with the Middle East News Agency of Egypt, another ACC member to facilitate the exchange of news material and other programmes between the two countries.

With the establishment of the line with North Yemen, Petra has thus been linked directly with six Arab and foreign news agencies, these are of Syria, Qatar, Morocco and the Soviet News Agency, TASS.

2 Yarmouk exhibitions

IRBID (Petra) — An exhibition on architectural design in European cities opened Saturday at Yarmouk University. The exhibition was organised by University students in cooperation with the European Community delegation in Amman.

On display for five days are collections of photographs of plazas and public squares in European cities dating back from the Middle Ages up to the modern times.

Dr. Fuad Al Sheikh Salem, the university vice president opened the exhibition. Present were a

number of deans and officials. Another exhibition opened at Yarmouk University Saturday was photographs depicting architectural designs in rural regions of Jordan by Jordanian artist Ammar Khammasb. The exhibition which last for four days was organised by the university's Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology.

The photographs also feature various aspects of the Jordanian environment and rural areas.

Dr. Mohammad Abu Saleh, the university's vice president opened the exhibition

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by French artist Jean-Francois Noble at Haya Arts Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Architectural Development in European Cities," displaying photos depicting architectural development since medieval ages, at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Architecture in Jordanian Country-side" by Ammar Khammasb at the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition of books and handicrafts at Princess Alia College.

RAMADAN SOUQ

- ★ Ramadan open-air market, which includes foodstuff, clothes, home appliances and children's toys at Mahatta, eastern Amman.
- ★ International Ramadan Souq, in which 14 Arab and Islamic countries are taking part, at the International Auto Centre, Queen Alia International Airport Highway.

FILMS

- ★ An Iraqi film entitled "Household" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 9:00 p.m.
- ★ A feature film entitled "In the Heat of the Night" at the American Centre — 4:00 p.m.

THEATRE

- ★ An Arabic play entitled "The Lovers' Village" shown as part of the cultural festival of the Jordanian community colleges, at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

Principals of private schools discuss ministry regulations

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 213 principals of private schools, nurseries and kindergartens in the Greater Amman area gathered at the Ministry of Education Saturday for an important meeting to discuss issues pertaining to their institutions and the application of regulations set by the ministry.

Addressing the meeting on behalf of the Minister of Education was Mr. Khaled Sheikh, director of the ministry's general education department who paid tribute to the private schools and their role in providing education to 13 per cent of the total volume of students in the country.

Sheikh said the 526 kindergartens and 329 schools in the Kingdom provide education to more than 100,000 students who attain high results in the general examinations. Sheikh also referred to the good facilities provided to

students in private schools like laboratories, playgrounds and libraries.

Sheikh also briefed the meeting on the ministry's efforts to promote education in the Kingdom in implementation of resolutions of the 1987 National Educational Conference.

He said that the ministry was currently preparing a general

framework to organise education in private schools and to introduce vocational training as an essential subject for the eighth, ninth and tenth grades.

Sheikh also told the meeting that the ministry has embarked on providing training for teachers in cooperation with Jordanian universities.



Principals of private schools and kindergartens Saturday meet to discuss application of ministry regulation (Petra photo).

AILF readmits Egypt

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Council of the Arab International Labour Federation (AILF) has decided to fully reinstate the membership of Egypt's Labour Union in the AILF to enable it to play its role alongside other Arab labour unions.

During its session which was held Saturday in Amman under the chairmanship of the President of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions Abdul Halim Khaddam, the AILF decided to accept the membership of Djibouti's Labour Union and blessed the steps undertaken in North Yemen to unite the labour

movement.

The AILF also held a special session to discuss the popular uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and to unveil the immoral Israeli practices being practised against the Palestinian people. The AILF expressed continued support for Arab labourers in the occupied territories and stressed the need to provide financial and moral support to the Palestinian people. The Palestine Labour Union secretary general had earlier presented a detailed report on the intifada.

Basic commodities available

AMMAN (Petra) — The chiefs of chambers of commerce in the Kingdom and traders of footstuffs held a meeting Saturday at the Chamber of Commerce in Amman and reviewed the economic and supply situation.

During the meeting, Union of Jordanian Chambers of Com-

merce President Mohammad Asfour said that the basic foodstuffs — namely wheat, sugar, rice and meat — are available in large quantities and that the government shoulders financial responsibilities by making them available at the least prices.

Book exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — The Princess Alia College in Amman Saturday organised a book exhibition displaying religious, cultural, historical and scientific books as well as children's books.

Also on display for 10 days are embroideries and other crafts. Ministry of Higher Education's Secretary General Ahmad Bashairah opened the exhibition. Present were a group of invited guests.

AOAS committee meets

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences (AOAS) will Monday host the meetings of the work team designated by the experts committee, which itself was formed by the eight-member Arab ministerial committee. The meetings will study and evaluate the branches and units affiliated to the specialised Arab organisations.

Participating in the meetings, are representatives of Jordan, Syria and Algeria, in addition to the director general of the Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences.

The Arab Economic and Social Council, in its extraordinary meeting, held in Amman last year, recommended the cancell-

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Yes to constructive dialogue

CROWN Prince Hassan's call for a constructive and calm dialogue on the economic issues that touched off the recent disturbances in some Jordanian cities and towns is an exemplary act of statesmanship. To begin with such an appeal implies the need by the public to show sensitivity to what the government is obligated to do to remedy the economic and financial hardships that the country has had to endure of late. This appeal for cool exchange of views also implies that the public as well has a point of view that must be addressed within the context of such a projected dialogue. This is the rational and sensible way to go about defusing the turmoil that erupted in some parts of the country in reaction to increases in prices of many commodities and services.

Fortunately for the country Prince Hassan has wide experiences in economic issues that touch on public well in general and the low income groups of societies in particular. His deep and thorough involvements in so many international fora which deal with hunger, deprivation and the denial of basic humanitarian considerations put him in perfect place to say his peace on the painful experiences that the Kingdom has witnessed of late. Any constructive dialogue on how to address these past events must therefore draw heavily on the experiences and expertise of His Royal Highness.

The next question that naturally comes up is how to organise such a proposed dialogue and on what level and forum. There is always the fear that the very people whose stomachs pain most from the increase of prices across the board may not be adequately represented in a strictly formal exchange of views conducted between experts and knowledgeable people. In order to fulfil the mandate of any such dialogue, efforts must be made to reach out for the real people who are affected most by the series of economic measures imposed on us by the peculiar economic and fiscal conditions. Be that as it may, the anticipated dialogue is already off on a good note. By suggesting to the other side of the coin that they may have a point or two, His Royal Highness has already made sure that the dialogue will be in earnest and bona fide. Thanks and appreciation are certainly due to Prince Hassan.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Jordanian dailies on Saturday discussed the situation in the wake of the regrettable incidents in the south and cautioned members of the public to adhere to reason and to demonstrate their allegiance to the Kingdom and display their readiness to serve the higher national interests. Al Ra'i for its part said that the Jordanian family is not used to being affected by events that do not reflect its true nature. The Jordanian family realises that the recent economic measures aimed to revitalise the national economy and help Jordanians rely more on their own potentials and resources, the paper noted. It said that all citizens realise that Jordan has always served as a bastion of national action, defending the Arab Nation as a whole, despite the failure by some Arab countries to honour their financial commitments. The paper referred to the incidents in the south as limited actions and not wide-spreading hostile forces as have been reported. But it noted that the way in which people expressed their views was totally unacceptable and the rioting and incidents can never stop the process and the march for development and progress.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Saturday discusses the situation in Afghanistan and says that despite the war in that country, huge numbers of refugees have expressed their desire to return home. Abdul Rahim Omar says that nearly 60,000 villages in Afghanistan have been destroyed and the remaining people are facing increasing hardships. Even roads, water networks, the crops and factories have all been damaged, and it would take a great deal of time, effort and money to bring life back to most of the country, the writer adds. He says that despite the tragedy, the refugees living abroad are determined to return because they believe that only the Kabul government can take steps towards re-building the country and achieving a lasting peace. The refugees realise now that the continuation of the civil war can only bring about more tragedies and sufferings and that through peace and dialogue with the government can they achieve their aspired goals, the writer concludes.

Al Dustour daily commented on an official government statement issued Friday about the regrettable incidents in the south of the country. The paper said that the statement came to shed light on the situation and to remind the citizens of their duty towards the country and its interests. The statement made it clear that the economic measures taken by the government were the only remaining option left; and noted that the members of the public have to share the national responsibility and shoulder part of the burdens. The paper noted that the Kingdom faces a shortage of hard currency following failure on the part of Arab countries to honour their commitment to Jordan which has huge foreign debts. It said that both the government and people now face the debts and face a deficit in the balance of payments and the fiscal budget. Therefore, it said, national duty calls on everyone to share the responsibility and act in the best interest of his country.

Sunday Economic Pulse

Economic objectives and policies

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

THE letter of intent agreed upon between the Jordanian government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation will not be published soon, pending its formal approval by the IMF management. However, Dr. Hanna Odeh, the minister of finance revealed the main objectives and policies embodied in the five year programme, and in the segment of the programme relating to the remaining eight months of the current year.

The objectives of the 1988-1993 economic and financial programme, he said, are five fold:

- (i) To achieve a real average growth rate, starting with one per cent in 1990, and reaching four per cent in 1993. This is not bad,

and could be an ambitious target, relative to the negative economic growth sustained in 1988. It is the only way to catch up with the extremely high growth rate of population currently around 3.8 per cent a year.

- (ii) To reduce price inflation as measured by consumer price index to a one digit figure as of 1990. Inflation is estimated to be running at 15 to 20 per cent annually since October 1988.
- (iii) To reduce the central government consolidated deficit from the current 23.7 per cent of GDP to 10 per cent in 1993.
- (iv) To reduce the current account deficit through encouragement of domestic production, curbing imports and increasing exports of goods and services.
- (v) Restoration of confidence in the economy and in the current exchange rate, which the IMF experts were reportedly satisfied that it is realistic and defensible. Of course the maintenance of the current exchange rate of \$1.85 to the dinar is dependent on the improvement in the balance of payments position, and the continued external competitiveness in the export markets.

The policies which will be employed to achieve the above objectives fall under the following headings:

- (i) The promotion of private initiative and rigorous management of public sector resources.
- (ii) The improvement in central

government financing resulting from a moderation of expenditures and an effort to stabilise tax revenue in relation to GDP.

- (iii) Interest rate flexibility will be used to regulate credit to the private sector and contribute to reducing inflationary pressures.
- (iv) Exchange rate flexibility will be guided by the need to maintain external competitiveness and to promote structural adjustment. The real effective exchange rate will be maintained at the current level.
- (v) The incomes policy will remain cautious, reflecting progress in reducing inflation and unemployment. Wages will not be allowed to rise faster than growth of productivity.

(vi) Pricing policy will be overhauled to ensure efficient use of resources; governmental services and products will be priced to reflect development in costs.

- (vii) Foreign trade will be liberalised. Trade to be influenced by incentives and tariffs but not quotas and restrictions.
- (viii) Improving the management of public sector enterprises to become self-financing and more autonomous in management on the basis of criteria of economic efficiency.

In the remaining part of 1989 the revenues of the budget will be increased by JD 39 million and the expenditure reduced by JD 19 million, thus deficit will be reduced by JD 58 million. Bank

credit to the private and public sectors will be restricted, tourism encouraged and foreign trade managed properly to improve balance of trade.

The government started to take action within the above lines. The JD 39 million extra revenue were secured through the controversial price increases declared early last week. Hotel accommodation pricing was floated by fixing minimum rate and leaving management to charge any higher rate if the market can take it. The Central Bank is supposed to be working on regulation to curb credit and set ceilings. Perhaps the level of credit on April 30, 1989 will be the starting point.

'Philby felt communism had returned to true roots'

By Michael Conlon
Reuters

CHICAGO — Kim Philby died a happy man and unrepentant spy last year, feeling Mikhail Gorbachev had returned to the Communist ideals that lured him into becoming a Soviet agent, according to the author of a new book.

Philip Knightley, the last Western journalist to interview Philby before his death last May in Moscow at the age of 76, said the one-time British intelligence officer was a dedicated Communist to the end who missed little of life in the West save English mustard and London gossip.

Knightley's book on Philby, "The Master Spy," has been published, or will be soon, in the United States, Britain, Holland, Israel, Spain and Japan.

"He felt that what was happening (under Gorbachev's domestic

reforms) now was the Communism that he devoted himself to and committed himself to when he was 21, and what had occurred in between was the aberration," Knightley told Reuters in a recent interview.

"He said it became clear that some nasty things had occurred under (Soviet leader Josef) Stalin, but elected to hang on in there hoping or confident that the principles of the revolution would outlive the monstrosities of one individual....

"And that was the faith he felt had been justified... Philby said they'd gotten back to true Communism."

Philby betrayed secrets to the Soviet Union for 30 years and wreaked untold damage on Western intelligence services before fleeing to Moscow in 1963. He was the mainstay of a three-man spy ring that had its origins at

Cambridge University in the early 1930s.

His partners, Guy Burgess and Donald MacLean, were unmasked 12 years before Philby was revealed as the "third man."

Philby's duplicity was especially devastating because he was in charge of Soviet intelligence for the British and at one time was thought to be in line to head his country's entire intelligence operation.

Knightley, a special correspondent for London's Sunday Times for 21 years, interviewed Philby over the course of several days beginning in January 1988. Philby died on May 11.

Asked if he thought Philby agreed to the interview after avoiding Western reporters for years, because he wanted to explain himself, Knightley said: "I think he wanted to explain himself, yes. Two or three pieces

in papers and books and everything had got to him... He said he enjoyed (spy novelist) John le Carré's first one or two books and then le Carré had made everything far too complicated.

"He couldn't follow the books, and he said they were all unlike any intelligence operation he'd ever been involved in and he thought le Carré had wandered away from the real world. But some of the things le Carré had written about... had hurt him. He wanted to say something in defence of himself.

"And then there'd been a piece in Canadian paper which absolutely stunned him, that said he was ill and broke and wandering the streets of Moscow and desperate to get back to Britain. I think that was the lever he used to persuade the KGB to let him see me."

In the book Knightley gives a

glimpse of Philby living a comfortable life, happy with his fourth wife, Ruffa.

He said the interview was also the result of 20 years of letter writing during which Knightley sought the story.

"I think I wore him down," he said. "I think when he realised he was ill and might die he thought he might like to have a few words."

Knightley said Philby admitted to having second thoughts during the years that Leonid Brezhnev was the Soviet leader, saying it was a stultifying period "that made him wonder whether he'd made the right decision."

Philby's standing in Soviet intelligence circles picked up again when Yuri Andropov, for whom he once worked, assumed power. "When Gorbachev arrived, he was absolutely delighted," Knightley said of Philby. "I think

he died a happy man. His new wife obviously meant a lot to him and he was back in the centre of attention again."

Of the era in which the spy was born, Knightley said: "It was a genuinely unique period, an aberration in British society. You can't fault him politically for the way that he saw the world when he was 21 years of age."

"Fascism was on the march everywhere... All the democratic parties were just willing before the rise of fascism and it looked as if a lot of the British ruling class were quite happy to have a fascist regime. The only party really standing up were the Communists."

"He wasn't the only one. Quite a lot of young men at that time, who later changed their minds, now when they're frank say they almost took the same path."

Japan premier in trouble but no substitute in sight

By Wahei Sakurai
Reuters

TOKYO — With the Recruit scandal ballooning out of control, everyone agrees that Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita is in trouble.

The problem is that no one can think of a replacement.

All the possible candidates are either tainted by the scandal or else are too old or too young to be considered.

Takeshita's popularity rating is scraping rock-bottom, the opposition is screaming for his resignation and many younger members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party are worried they will lose their parliamentary seats if something isn't done.

Political analysts agree the Recruit affair, involving massive payments by the Recruit Company to public figures, including most of the LDP leadership, has destroyed Takeshita's chance of gaining a second two-year term as party head in October.

They say it is also increasingly likely that he will be forced to resign before his term ends despite his apparent determination to tough it out.

But the question still remains: If not Takeshita, then who?

Takeshita won the premiership in 1987 over two other candidates — Kiichi Miyazawa, then finance minister, and former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, both leaders of large factions within the LDP.

Miyazawa lost any chance of replacing Takeshita when he was forced to resign in last December as a result of his involvement in the Recruit scandal.

Abe was therefore the leading contender — until last Friday when newspapers reported that his wife had been receiving a monthly "adviser's fee" from Recruit for several years.

Abe admitted the reports were true, adding that he had also received contributions from Recruit. He refused to say how much they amounted to or give further details but said the payments were legal.

Nevertheless, political analysts say the revelations also virtually ruled Abe out of the race for the succession, at least for the time being.

Former premier Yasuhiro Nakasone, who served from 1983 to 1987, is known to have nurtured hopes for a return to office — until he was linked to the Recruit scandal.

Parliament has been stalled for more than a month by opposition demands that Nakasone testify on his links to Recruit. He has refused.

The next possible candidate analysts turn to are the LDP

elders, particularly Masayoshi Ito, 75, who briefly served as acting prime minister in 1980.

Ito, a senior member of the Miyazawa faction and chairman of the LDP executive council, is influential, respected and, mostly importantly, untainted by the Recruit scandal. But there are some reports that he is in poor health.

Former prime minister Takeo Fukuda, 84, has also been mentioned as a possible stand-in.

An outside possibility is Michio Watanabe, 65, who has held a number of key cabinet posts but is noted for his verbal blunders and political analysts think it unlikely the party would give him the job at such a sensitive time.

If a party elder were chosen, he would simply be a caretaker while the party sorted out its affairs.

The Asahi Shimbun quoted opposition sources as saying Takeshita was likely to step down after this year's budget passes through parliament, expected in May, and before upper house elections in August.

According to the sources, the successor to Takeshita would be... a "surprise candidate."

By Paul Majendie
Reuters

BELFAST — Irish revolutionary leader Gerry Adams says you cannot shoot, bomb and terrorise one million Northern Ireland Protestants into joining a united Ireland.

But he argues fervently that British withdrawal from the north and an end to partition would rapidly give those Protestants an effective voice in an islandwide republic.

The leader of the IRA's political wing insists "resolution of the conflict would free Unionists from their historic larger mentality and would grant them real security instead of tenure based on repression and triumphalism."

The Sinn Fein president, laying out his political credo in a new book entitled *Pathway to Peace*, stresses in the runup to next month's local elections in the north "we do not intend to turn back the pages of history or dispossess the loyalists."

Northern Ireland offers one of history's most insoluble equations — one million Protestants outnumber Catholics two-to-one in the north, but would be outnumbered four-to-one in a united Ireland.

That insoluble equation has cost almost 3,000 lives in Northern Ireland's 20-year-old political and sectarian conflict, already six years older than Lebanon's bloody civil war.

Adams, whose critics argue that his support for Irish Republic

Protestants cannot be bombed into united Ireland

can Army guerrillas perpetuates and aggravates the agony, says "you cannot bomb, shoot, terrorise a million screaming, kicking Protestants into an Irish republic against their will."

But he argues that the problems of this divided and tragic island are bedevilled by simplification and exaggeration.

He reasons that Unionists, deprived of British support and facing a united Ireland, could "quickly adapt themselves to the idea of equal citizenship and claim for themselves an effective democratic voice in the running of their own country."

Next month's local elections are a crucial test of support for Sinn Fein among the Irish Nationalists in the province.

The IRA's political wing, which is fielding 95 candidates, was gravely embarrassed last week when the guerrilla group had to offer its "sincerest apologies" for killing a 20-year-old Catholic woman in a botched attack on a police station.

Joanne Reilly, killed in the picturesque border town of Warrenpoint that is predominantly Nationalist, was the 29th person to be killed by mistake in the past

urged the IRA to be more careful.

Adams, at present fighting for the 15th time to get the U.S. State Department to give him a visa to visit the United States and present his party's case there, now has a public platform in the north that had been lost to him for six months.

In a major security clamp-down, the British government decided last year to impose a media ban on all politicians who publicly supported guerrilla violence in the north.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said they should be starved of what she called "the oxygen of publicity."

When the ban was temporarily lifted last week as canvassing got under way for the local elections, one of the first moves Sinn Fein leaders had to make was to express publicly their regret and anger over the bungled Warrenpoint bombing.

With his pipe and tweed jacket, the bearded Adams looks more like a mild-mannered professor than a fiercely committed revolutionary leader.

But there is no mistaking that revolutionary fervour in his book where he says of the 20-year-old battle by Nationalists to win better jobs, education and housing "the civil rights demands put the British state to a test."

"The state failed to test and reacted with terrorism against the modest and moderate demands being put to it. In 1969, the state died."

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مكتبة عبد الله

Malaria epidemic rages in the Brazilian Amazon

By Miriam Jordan
Reuter

SAO PAULO — A malaria epidemic is raging among thousands of migrants fleeing urban poverty to seek a better life in the Brazilian Amazon.

"Malaria has become hell in the Amazon," said Marcos Boulos, a leading Brazilian expert on the disease.

"Some families arrive here with 10 members and leave with three," said Sergio Andrade, a doctor in the Amazon town of Ariquemes.

"There's no targeted project to fight it," said Boulos. "Health is not a government priority and there is no money for it."

Last year 600,000 malaria cases were recorded in the vast forest region by Sucam, the tropical disease arm of Brazil's health ministry.

"If you add to the Sucam figure the non-reported cases, they will probably total one million," said Boulos.

In 1970, when bulldozers began clearing the jungle for the trans-Amazonian highway there were 52,000 malaria cases. By 1980,

160,000 cases were reported.

The thousands who answered a government call to settle in the Amazon, a vast area rich in resources, found land and gold but few medical facilities.

"The government said go there and the land is yours. There was no social planning, no sanitation. Malaria exploded. Many thousands of people died," Boulos said.

Sucam has not calculated the death toll for 1988, but based on an average mortality rate of one to two per cent, Boulos estimates that between 6,000 and 10,000 people died of malaria in the Amazon last year.

Of the two strains of malaria, vivax and falciparum, the second, more deadly has gained ground in the migrants' precarious living and working conditions, particularly in gold rush areas along the rivers.

"Man invaded the mosquito's house. The prospector stands half-naked in still water from dawn to dusk. He's the closest prey and has replaced the monkey, rat and chicken," said Boulos.

Ariquemes, a tin-mining and agricultural town of 180,000 in Rondonia state, recorded 90,000

cases last year.

Andrade said 70 per cent of the town's population had had malaria at least once. Many get it repeatedly.

"It's a fact of life. They fall in and out of malaria," he said.

Donald Sawyer, an American sociologist who has studied malaria in the Amazon since 1983, said the disease devastated entire families.

"There are families facing 15 cases of malaria a year. They can't be successful as farmers and have to spend the money they earn treating the disease," he said, adding they were reluctant to leave cherished plots of land.

The numerous towns in the Amazon boast few public hospitals. Ariquemes has one public hospital with 50 beds and five private ones.

Sawyer cited reports of malaria treatments costing hundreds of dollars. Boulos described desperate malaria victims in the gold-fields who paid for treatment with pure gold.

Experts said Sucam was ill-equipped to deal with the influx of migrants settling in the forest to eke out a living as Brazil's economic woes persist.

"To stop malaria we'd need one Sucam worker per inhabitant. We'd have to educate the entire population, teach them new habits, build them oew houses," said Manuel Lira, regional director of Sucam in Ariquemes.

Ariquemes has 180 Sucam technicians who spray homes with insecticides, give advice, test for and treat malaria.

Goldminers' makeshift homes of palm or plastic sheets are easily penetrated by the malaria-carrying mosquito.

People fish and bathe at dawn or dusk, when the risk of mosquito bites is greatest.

The sheer size of the Amazon region — five million square kilometres — creates its own problems.

"One sees Sucam workers loaded down with packs, supplies, pumps and buckets walking miles on foot in the tropical sun and rain," Sawyer said.

He said the agency was subject to severe budget controls imposed by the federal government under austerity measures to cut public spending. Brazil is developing world's biggest debtor, owing \$115 billion.

"We are seeing a regression in Brazil's health. A poor country with healthy people can fight on. But a poor country with sick people can only die. It has no strength to pay debts," Boulos said.

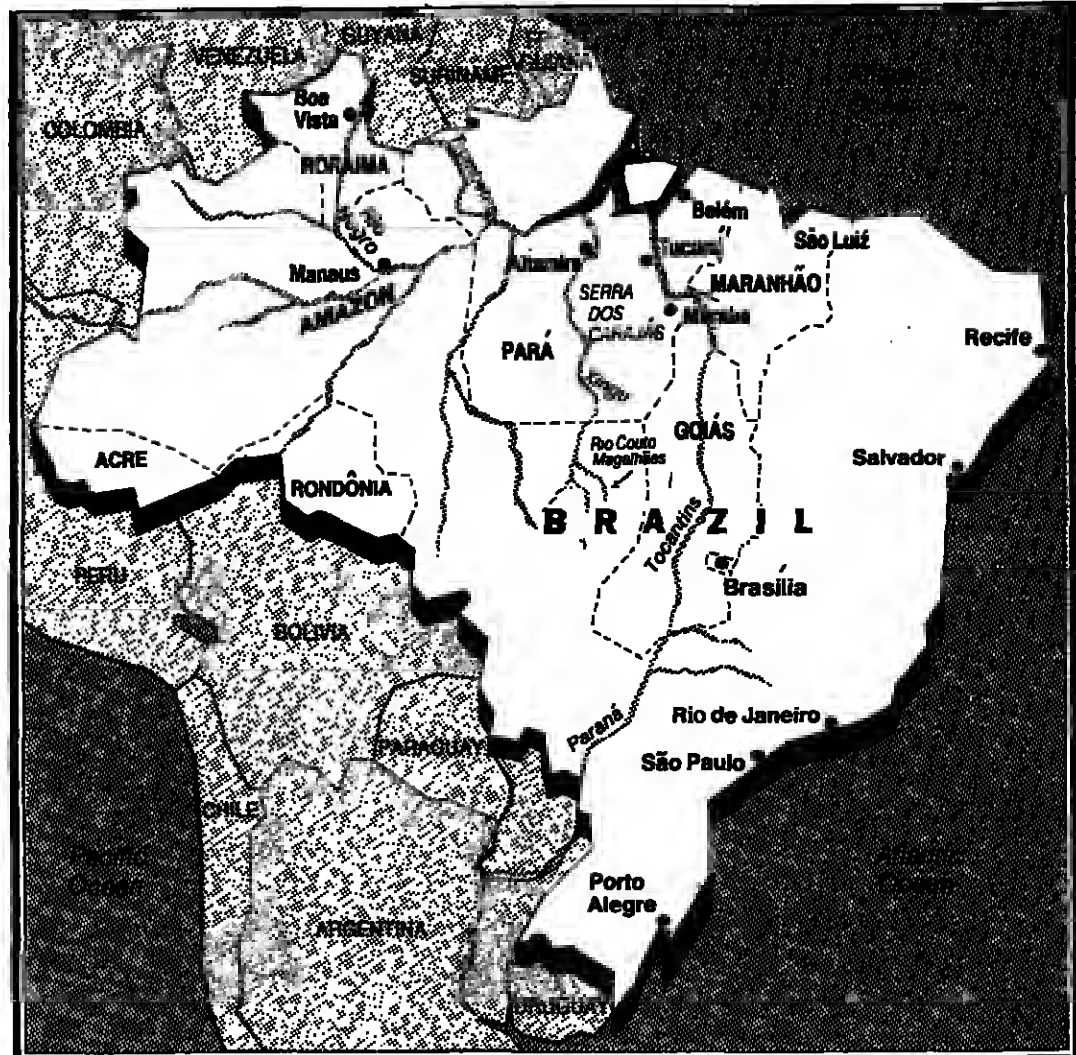
Sawyer said Brazil needed a low-cost, self-help strategy to control malaria. With World Health Organisation funding, he and a research team are devising a programme to combat malaria in the Amazon.

"There are settlements in the Amazon without malaria. They are organised by big companies. But when the poor migrants move in, there's an explosive epidemic," said Sawyer.

Sawyer's team is trying to identify what malaria-free communities do that affected communities can copy.

"We can't expect people to build brick homes with screens and have piped water but we want to identify and promote self-help measures on a large scale," he said.

Simple factors like site selection and clearing vegetation around a home were vital, he noted.



Body-hunters export skeletons

By Rajendra Bajpai
Reuter

CALCUTTA — Calcutta, India's largest city, is known for its slums, teeming by day and crowded by night with hundreds of street sleepers — but it has another, even more dubious distinction.

It is believed to be the world's largest exporter of human skulls and skeletons.

Until 1985 when the trade was banned, the government allowed the export of skeletons to medical colleges. Now the sales are shrouded in secrecy.

Body-hunters dig up graves or bribe morgue officials to get their hands on unclaimed bodies.

Local newspapers say undamaged skeletons, which can fetch as much as \$630, are sent across the border to Bangladesh before

being despatched by air or sea to their ultimate destinations.

Senior police officer Kamlesh Roy said most bodies came from cemeteries and from other districts of West Bengal or neighbouring Bihar state to exporters based in Calcutta.

The Statesman newspaper estimated some 70,000 skeletons, mostly from poverty-stricken neighbouring states, pour into Calcutta each year.

It said that in 1987 about 15,000 skeletons and 50,000 human skulls were sent overseas despite the ban.

The value of exports from Calcutta was estimated by the Statesman at \$1.6 million and all Indian trade at \$4 million.

Officials say they have no statistics on the subject. Gururaja Rao, an official of the import-export licensing de-

partment, said: "The trade has been banned since 1985. I do not know how the exports are taking place."

But some cases come to light. The Telegraph newspaper reported that a group of youngsters returning home near Calcutta last year heard strange noises coming from a morgue.

In a dingy, blood-spattered room, they found a man surrounded by 13 severed heads. A heap of flesh lay near him. The man was skinning the heads.

After he was handed over to police he confessed his father sold the skulls to contacts in the city.

Doctors working at Calcutta morgues deoied unclaimed bodies were being sold to exporters.

"It is a fact that those who are in the racket may have connections with morgues," said A. Nandy, a senior doctor at the medical college morgue.

But he said he believed there had been no "leakages" of bodies from his morgue, which he said followed established government rules for disposing of unclaimed corpses.

Nandy's morgue handles up to 1,200 bodies a year, of which about 300 to 400 are unidentified and unclaimed. They are handed over to the Calcutta corporation for disposal.

"Theoretically there should be no skeletons (available)," he said.

"But this is a clandestine business. I have heard of incidents where beggars have been killed for their skeletons," Nandy said.

THE FRENCH BALLET

As stars, ballerinas or simple extras, the 152 dancers in the Paris Opera's ballet troupe feel deeply privileged to belong to one of the world's most prestigious ballets. It also happens to be arguably the oldest, since it can trace its ancestry back to the Royal Academy founded at Louis XIV's wish in 1661. The Opera's troupe has always presented a judicious mix of classical and contemporary dance, and Rudolf Nureyev, its famed director since 1983, has done everything to keep it that way.

Recently it reconstituted scores from the 17th century and performed works of established contemporary figures like Jose Limon and Anthony Tudor, just as it performed ballets by such neo-classical masters as Serge Lifar and Georges Balanchine, alongside highly experimental choreography by newcomers from around the world. Indeed, the Opera's ballet, more than any other temple of French culture, has gained from its capacity to absorb trends from the outside world.



Test tube fusion — worry persists!

By Yann Tessier
Reuter

PARIS — Scientists testing a dramatic claim that nuclear fusion had occurred in a simple test-tube, raising hopes of boundless cheap energy, are puzzled by conflicting evidence.

The discovery, claimed last month by a British and American scientific team, would overshadow years of international effort to generate fusion by creating laboratory temperatures hotter than the sun.

But researchers who rushed to duplicate the experiment by Briton Martio Fleischmann and American Stanley Pons have come up with apparently conflicting answers to the suggestion that nuclear fusion, the energy of the stars, had indeed taken place at room temperature.

The Italian state nuclear energy body, ENEA, said this week its laboratory, respected among scientists "worldwide", produced a nuclear reaction several times greater than in previous attempts around the world.

But in France, a team using some of the world's most advanced detection equipment said it had yet to come up with any hard proof. "Experiments are still in progress but we have yet to come up with anything spectacular," said one of the researchers who asked not to be named.

The Fleischmann-Pons experiments are also reported to have been replicated by teams in Poland, Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union and Brazil.

"The experiments are comparatively simple, so we shall soon know whether or not there is something in it," U.S. physicist Kenneth Fowler said.

Fowler, a fusion specialist at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, told reporters during a visit to Paris that if cold fusion was a reality it was too early to speculate about industrial applications.

Scientists would like it to be true, but there was great scepticism among his colleagues, he said.

For nearly 40 years, physicists have pursued fusion as the answer to mankind's energy problems, a technology that would put present-day nuclear fission reactors on the scrapheap.

In fusion, atoms yield up their energy when they are split.

In fusion, energy is released when atoms fuse together. But the process has yet to be taken beyond the realm of experimental reactors so expensive that countries have had to club together to afford them.

Robert Aymar, fusion research director at France's Atomic Energy Authority, was critical of the Fleischmann-Pons results.

"They found something, but it's not at all sure it was fusion," he added. The results posed more questions than they answered, and more experiments needed to be done.

Yet the prospects are tantalising.

Fusion's raw material deuterium, a special type of hydrogen, is cheap and abundant in sea water. One litre of sea water potentially could produce 300 times as much energy as a litre of petrol.

To date, fusion research has concentrated on heating deuterium atoms to over 100 million degrees Centigrade — like the heat inside a hydrogen bomb blast — to overcome the natural forces that keep them apart and allow them to fuse.

Fleischmann and Pons not only suggested the whole thing could be done at room temperature but that four times more energy was obtained from their reaction than

was put in — a goal that has eluded conventional fusion researchers.

Fleischmann and Pons' experiments passed an electrical current through platinum and palladium electrodes dipped into a solution of salt and "heavy water" — in which deuterium atoms replace hydrogen in the water molecule.

According to the two, deuterium atoms fused as they crowded into a microscopic lattice structure in the palladium electrode.

"As we understand it, if it had been a classic case of fusion anyone standing near the experiment would have had radiation sickness within a few hours," Fowler said, explaining that neutrons and

radiations would be reaction by-products.

He said the cold fusion experiments should have produced 10 billion more neutrons than were actually measured.

"What we can't understand is how cold fusion can be nuclear, but not observable as such," he said.

Last week, several U.S. laboratories said they had been unable to detect high levels of neutrons, proof fusion was taking place.

And one which did, the Georgia Institute of Technology, later questioned its findings when it said the heat given off by the reaction could have affected

accuracy of their readings. Other duplication efforts, at Moscow University, Georgia Tech, and in Hungary have yielded conflicting results.

But the ENEA team said on April 15 it had obtained several hundred times background levels of protons, the highest so far, by using the metal titanium and a gaseous form of deuterium.

Some scientists, like professor Ian Fells of Britain's Norwich University, feel the phenomenon might be a mixture of fission and a chemical reaction. "What is clear is that a lot more experimentation needs to be done," he told reporters.

Opium poppy farmers thrive in Turkey

By John Owen-Davies
Reuter

BOLVADIN — Mehmet Baser looks on happily as his wife and daughter tend young opium poppy plants in a field overshadowed by Turkey's craggy Anatolian peaks.

These are good days for an estimated 200,000 Turkish families earning a living with state blessing from a business dating back some 4,000 years to the early Hittites.

After a brief U.S.-inspired poppy growing ban in the 1970s to remove the stigma of involvement in drug trafficking, Turkey is now a leader in the legal poppy-based painkiller market.

"We took about 25 per cent of the world market of some 225 tonnes last year. We are the biggest producer of morphine and opium alkaloid derivatives," Namik Kemal Atalan, director of the Turkish opiates board, told reporters.

Atalan said Turkey, with major customers in the United States and Western Europe, was seeking markets in Africa and the Far East and hoped to outrun a major

competitor, Australia.

This year's poppy capsule crop from 40,000 hectares of central Anatolian land is likely to be some way below an initial estimate of 15,000 tonnes because of frost.

"We have sufficient stocks," said Ahmet Ozgunes, chairman of the state-run Turkish grain board which oversees the opiates board and its \$90-million alkaloids factory at Bolvadin with an annual capacity to process 20,000 tonnes of capsules.

In a high-security room of the factory, 220 kilometres southwest of Ankara, 31 tonnes of powdered light brown raw morphine is stored in white plastic bags tied with string.

"Each kilogramme is sold legally for a minimum of \$185 but for a trafficker, one of these 25 kilogramme bags would earn enough to build an apartment block in Istanbul," a factory source said.

He said the total stock of 31 tonnes, guarded by steel doors and scanned by television cameras, had an illegal street value of some \$3 billion in Turkey alone. The factory, opened in 1981, is

surrounded by a high wire fence and army-type frontier observation posts overlooking bleak Anatolian peaks. Its 450 workers are searched regularly.

Turkey is a transit area for more than 50 per cent of the smuggled heroin, produced from base morphine, which finds its way to Europe from poppy fields in Iran and Afghanistan.

"There has been virtually no problem with illicit poppy growth in Turkey since the government lifted the growing ban in 1974," a Western narcotics expert said.

"When Turkey signed the 1971 agreement (to stop poppy growing), illicit growth stopped. It shows that if a government wants to stop it, it can," he added.

Para-military gendarmes troops and helicopters watch the poppy fields, especially from the time the distinctive white and purple flowers bloom in May to the late summer harvest.

Farmers are banned from carrying out the centuries-old method of drawing opium gum from the poppy pod by incision.

Dried pods are harvested only after it has been determined that they have not been incised. Seeds

are extracted mainly for new crops and cooking oil and the shells enter the factory.

Apart from morphine, the factory produces derivatives such as codeine and exports poppy seeds, sought by some countries for pastry decoration and the soap and perfume industry.

Farmer Baser, who also has wheat fields, said he hoped to produce 150 kilogrammes of poppy straw from one field this year, for which he would receive 36 cents a kilogramme from the state, double the 1988 rate.

"We have had no addiction in this area. They are basically a happy people," said Ozgunes, standing in Baser's field in the main poppy growing province of afyon — "opium" in Turkish.

In an apparent attempt to increase market share, Turkey cut raw morphine prices to about \$150 a kilogramme a few years ago. But it later agreed to a base of some \$185, Atalan said.

Turkey's main competitors are Australia, India, France, the Netherlands, Hungary and Britain and the United States — the last two producing poppies through firms in Australia.



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'Bull' returns to Wall Street

NEW YORK (AP) — Financial markets staged a powerful comeback Friday from a brief scare that an interest rate increase in West Germany would trigger a spiral of rising rates around the world.

Stock prices leaped in late trading and bonds rose after Thursday's modest sell-off, which came after West Germany announced it would raise key interest rates to stave off inflation.

The fear Thursday was that West Germany's action could prompt other nations to raise their own rates in order to keep global money from flowing out of their currencies.

That concern eased Friday as investors concluded that the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, would not necessarily push U.S. interest rates higher.

"I think what the markets are telling us is that this was a temporary scare and the underlying tone of the markets is constructive," said Michael Metz, a managing director and investment strategist at Oppenheimer and Co. financial firm.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials jumped 32.08 to 2,409.46 after having fallen 9.53 points Thursday.

The rise, accelerated by programme trading, brought the average to its highest point since the October 1987 crash.

In the credit market, the yield on the treasury's benchmark 30-year bond dipped back below nine per cent, which it had exceeded Thursday.

West Germany is historically fearful of inflation. Its moves to dampen price increases by tightening the screws on its own economy have often sent ripples through the world economy.

Indeed, the Netherlands, Austria and Denmark followed the Germans Thursday in raising rates, keeping their nations' securities attractive to investors.

But the U.S. central bank has apparently concluded that it does not need to raise U.S. rates, even if the failure to do so causes money to flow abroad and the dollar to fall, Metz said.

The Federal Reserve places more importance on the state of the U.S. economy than on the dollar's level and has apparently concluded that the level of U.S. inflation does not justify higher rates, he said.

Some investment analysts say the West Germans are right to be vigilant and that the United States could be in for a crisis if it does not squelch inflation now.

"We're riding along on a wave of liquidity-inspired euphoria," said Samuel Thorne Jr., managing director for fixed-income portfolio management at Scudder, Stevens and Clark Inc. in Boston.

Although West Germany's inflation rate remains low by world standards — three per cent year-over-year at the consumer level in the latest tally — the nation's factory usage rate is at a 16-year high and economic growth is running above normal.

Those factors prompted Thursday's announcement of increases in the German central bank lending rates, said Nicholas Sargen, an international economist at Salomon Brothers Inc. in New York.

Peter Canelo, Bear Stearns Co. investment strategist, said the market resumed its uptrend "once you had the panic in the oil market subside and it looked like the (interest) rate increases were not going to catch on."

Describing the swell in trading volume as a good sign, Canelo

said: "It tells us the bull market is back in force."

New York Stock Exchange mulls 24-hour trading

Meanwhile, the venerable New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), long a bastion of resistance to the global push toward 24-hour securities trading, said Friday it is studying ways of developing a system of off-hours transactions.

The admission by the 198-year-old NYSE was viewed as a reaction to moves by competing stock exchanges to implement fully computerised round-the-clock trading systems that could siphon away business from Wall Street.

Under computerised trading, shares of stock can be traded electronically when the exchange floor is shut down, via programmes that automatically match up buyers and sellers for various securities.

NYSE spokesman Richard Torrenzano said the exchange plans to discuss the issue with customers, traders, institutional investors, listed companies and securities firms.

"What we're saying is in the next six to 24 months we'll be looking at a number of different things," Torrenzano said.

"We're not sure there is enough demand to make the NYSE go to 24-hour trading," he said. "We have to go out and talk to all the various parties in the market. Based on those needs and demands, the NYSE will be very responsive and committed."

The tiny Cincinnati Stock Exchange last month announced plans to implement computerised 24-hour trading in the next 19 months.

The Toronto Stock Exchange, the Tokyo Stock Exchange and other markets overseas have introduced at least partially automated execution systems and have been open to the concept of harnessing technology to give investors the option of buying or selling at any time.

Highlighting JAMPCO operations

Abu Hassan analyses farming sector

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Agriculture Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) has succeeded in saving millions of dinars worth of imported food supplies by adopting a set of regulations and introducing measures designed to stimulate the agricultural sector in Jordan, according to Ghazi Abu Hassan, the company's director-general.

Over the past two years alone, the company was able to save \$25 million, reestablish stability in the local markets and reduce marketing difficulties, Abu Hassan said in a statement published in Al Dustour daily Saturday.

According to Abu Hassan, Jordan is now producing considerable quantities of onions, garlic and apples which it used to import from Arab and foreign countries. He said that the company's policies have helped Jordan to achieve 80 per cent sufficiency of onions and 50 per cent of garlic; and has succeeded in reducing by 17,000 tonnes the Kingdom's im-

ports of apples annually. The production of apples and a newly-introduced programme for importing apples within limited periods of the year led to a decline in imports from 30,000 tonnes to 13,000 tonnes, the company director pointed out.

Abu Hassan said that regrettably the company which handles the task of marketing Jordan's agricultural products abroad has lost the Arab markets in Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries, but has succeeded in opening new markets in Europe to which the national exports in 1986 reached 450 tonnes, rising to 3000 tonnes in 1987 and 6000 tonnes in 1988.

Among the vegetables and fruits which Jordan exports to other countries are: Onions, citrus fruit, marrows, eggplants, pepper, tomatoes and beans, Abu Hassan pointed out.

He said that the Jordanian farmers and JAMPCO both face the

following constraints and obstacles in their drive to market more products:

The absence of an organised and regular maritime transport operation, difficulties in transporting crops by land and a ban in Europe on imports of Jordanian potatoes. However, he added that the company is now studying the prospect of purchasing one or two aircraft to transport crops to Europe and is in an advanced stage for an agreement with private owners of refrigerated trucks to help carry crops by land to neighbouring regions.

In addition, the company has set up agricultural processing plants and owns others for processing tomato paste and fruit juice, both of which are in demand in Jordan and abroad.

The company, which was established in 1984, now has a JD 10 million capital, owned by the Treasury (70 per cent), the Social Security Department (12.5 per cent), the Pension Fund (18.5 per cent) and the Agricultural Credit Corporation (five per cent), Abu Hassan said.

When it was established, the company had set itself to work and achieve the following objectives: Develop internal and exter-

nal marketing of locally produced crops, establish and manage processing plants, operate warehouses to store crops, conclude agreements with farmers to sell their crops here and abroad and contribute towards laying down sound production and marketing policies.

Abu Hassan noted that the frost in the past winter considerably reduced Jordan's agricultural exports to Europe which remains a good source of income for Jordan's foreign currency. He noted that the European Community countries, Austria, Sweden, Finland and Denmark now import Jordan's products.

Referring to Jordan's exports to Syria, Abu Hassan noted that Damascus is now indebted by JD 2 million to Jordan for agricultural

Ghazi Abu Hassan

ral exports but JAMPCO will continue to sell Syria some types of products and to barter other types to preserve the Syrian markets.

He said Iraq imports Jordanian tomato paste but no other agricultural crops, because the country enjoys self-sufficiency of most crops.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, April 22, 1989

Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0
Pound Sterling	920.5	930.3
Deutschemark	289.9	293.6
Swiss franc	329.3	333.0
French franc	85.7	86.4
Japanese yen (for 100)	408.2	409.6
Dutch guilder	237.8	239.8
Swedish crown	85.3	86.0
Italian lira (for 100)	39.6	39.9
Belgian franc (for 10)	139.1	140.2

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

High prices trigger violence in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — Over 50 people were arrested after violence sparked by high prices erupted at a rural market, the Algerian news agency APS reported Saturday. APS said shoppers went on the rampage last Sunday wrecking stalls, trampling produce, smashing utensils and damaging cars at the small farming town of Aflou in the Jebel Amour mountains 300 kilometres south-west of Algiers. It was the first report of violence since food prices in Algeria doubled or even tripled in the last two weeks. Shoppers have boycotted meat and vegetable sellers in Algiers and other towns like Oran and Tizi Ouzou. Consumer groups have threatened to stage a nationwide boycott. The agency said drought which has decimated livestock had forced prices up. It blamed higher prices combined with what it called tragic unemployment for the Aflou outburst. High food prices and shortages were among grievances voiced during bloody riots last October.

Strike grounds Olympic Airways

ATHENS (R) — Thousands of tourists travelling on Greece's Olympic Airways were stranded Saturday as the company's entire fleet was grounded by striking flight attendants. An Olympic Airways spokesman said all 160 domestic and international flights scheduled for the weekend were cancelled. The attendants, campaigning for extra pay for working on weekends and holidays, said they would follow their 48-hour strike ending Sunday at midnight by rolling stoppages next week. Ground crews of foreign airlines operating in Greece start a five-day strike Monday for higher pay. The strikes are expected to affect the holiday plans of thousands of people during Greek Orthodox Easter week starting Monday.

EC grants \$28m aid for refugees, poor.

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) said Friday it was giving \$28.4 million worth of food aid to help refugees and the poor around the world. The lion's share, aid worth 12.4 million European Currency Units (\$13.9 million), will go to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees to help 2.5 million refugees in 15 countries. The EC Commission said in a statement. The rest will be shared by Kampuchean refugees in Thailand, the victims of conflicts in Africa and Latin America and the poor and those hit by natural disasters around the world. The commission said it had also decided to ship 10,000 tonnes of cereals as emergency food aid to Laos, where drought in the south of the country has cut the rice crop.

Wage settlement ends Indian strike

NEW DELHI (R) — A six-day dock strike that had crippled India's ports ended Saturday after the government agreed to give workers a 20 per cent pay rise. "I can positively say that by no later than Sunday night or Monday port operations will be completely back to normal," Surface Transport Minister Rajesh Pilot told reporters. S.R. Kulkarni, president of the All India Dock Workers Federation, said the five unions in the federation agreed to settle for a wage and benefit increase of between 20 and 21 per cent. The unions, representing 300,000 workers, went on strike last Monday after rejecting a government offer of about 15 per cent. The government called in the navy and army to unload vital cargoes such as oil and raw materials for fertilisers. It also authorised ports to hire outside workers after the strike virtually halted exports. Union and government officials said a key point in the settlement was the government's commitment to give port and dock workers wage parity with other public sector unions by the end of a new five-year agreement signed Saturday.

Moroccans extend strike at oil refinery

RABAT (R) — A strike by about 1,200 workers at Morocco's largest oil refinery has been extended for another 72 hours, the Confederation Democratique Du Travail (CDT) labour union said Saturday. A spokesman said production at the oil refining section of the refinery was halted and 98 per cent of the workers had observed the strike call. Workers were called out last Wednesday

for 48 hours in support of a long list of benefits. The stoppage was extended because management refused to discuss their demands, the spokesman said. The state-owned refinery at Mohammadia has an annual processing capacity of 3.5 million tonnes of crude. Workers are demanding an across-the-board wage increase, higher housing and holiday bonuses, a reduction in the work week from 44 to 40 hours, a 14th month's pay a year, and other benefits. The management was not available for comment.

Belgium raises five interest rates

BRUSSELS (AP) — The central bank has raised interest on five lending rates, a day after West Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark and Austria raised their key rates. The National Bank raised its discount and Lombard rates by 0.5 point each to 8.75 and nine per cent respectively and lifted interest on one, two and three-month treasury bills by 0.1 point each to respective levels of eight, 8.2 and 8.3 per cent. The three-month rate is considered Belgium's key interest rate. The new discount rate takes effect Monday. The other rates took effect Friday. The central bank said the new rates were adopted following "changes in interest rates abroad." Belgium usually follows changes in interest rates in West Germany, a key trading partner. The discount rate is the rate of interest used by banks to discount commercial paper at the central bank. The Lombard rate is the rate charged on advances to banks where government securities are used as collateral.

Peruvian inti loses more value

LIMA (AP) — The central bank devalued Peru's currency 4.2 per cent Thursday, the third devaluation this month and the sixth this year of the inflation-ravaged inti. The official-rate inti, used to pay exporters and to import basic foods and medicines, was devalued from 1,570 to the U.S. dollar to 1,640, according to a communiqué. The central bank described the devaluation as a small modification to insure the smooth functioning of the exchange-rate system. The devaluations this year, which have reduced the value of local currency a total of 70 per cent, have been aimed at boosting exports and reducing the amount the government spends to subsidise imports. Heavy government spending is considered a major cause of Peru's inflation. Peru is battling one of the worst recessions in its history. The economy shrank nine per cent last year and inflation hit an all-time high of 1,722 per cent. The government has said that the devaluations will initially fuel inflation, but that it expects the inflation rate to decline as the economy stabilises.

Norway's oil, gas finds exceed output

OSLO (AP) — Norway ended 1988 with higher estimated reserves of oil and natural gas, even though its North Sea platform pumped 10 per cent more crude than in 1987, reports have said. The Norwegian Petroleum Directorate (NPD) said reserve estimates for oil and natural gas liquids at new and existing fields increased by 478 million barrels, while 420 million barrels were produced last year, reported national news agency NTB. A 52 billion cubic metre upward adjustment of natural gas reserves also exceeded the 28.4 billion cubic metres exported in 1988, although no new gas fields were discovered, said the report. With the greater reserves, Norway can maintain current oil flows for 28 years and gas exports for 98 years, said the NPD.

U.S. exchanges widen scope of trading

NEW YORK (AP) — Trading of options and futures on the international market index, which is based on stocks of 50 major foreign companies, will be offered starting May 12, the American Stock Exchange and the Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange Inc. have said. The exchanges said it would be the first time U.S. options and futures are available on a broad, international stock index. The index covers stocks that are traded in the United States, mainly in the form of American depositary receipts, on the New York Stock Exchange, Amex, and over-the-counter. The index is updated every 15 seconds. Included in it are companies from Japan, Hong Kong, Australia and seven European countries.

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Amman Marriott hosts senior international division Marriott management and staff in first quality seminar

The Marriott Hotel group, International Division has chosen the Amman Marriott Hotel to hold their first Quality Seminar for the International Division of the Marriott chain.

All Vice Presidents in the Division and General Managers of each Marriott Hotel in the International Division have come to Amman from more than 10 countries in Europe, the Eastern Bloc and the Middle East representing all senior management for Marriott International in attendance at the conference.

The choice of the Amman Marriott Hotel

as the site of this first important seminar of its kind in the International Division was made to underline the importance of promoting Jordan and Amman as a touristic destination.

"We at the Amman Marriott Hotel are committed to developing long term tourism in Jordan and I am pleased to announce this important conference as proof of our group International Division commitment to attaining this goal," said Mr. Frank Keenan, General Manager of the Amman Marriott.

Picture shows all participants at the conference.

CANCELLATION OF GATHERING

The Consulate of Ireland regrets to announce the cancellation of the Irish gathering due to take place at Mount Nebo, Madaba to honour

H.E. Ambassador and Mrs. McCabe

On Sunday the 23rd of April 1989 at 16:30 hrs.

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Jordanian basketball team to play in Abu Dhabi

The Jordanian Aramex basketball team will be participating in the Nadi Al Wehdeh Ramadan Tournament in Abu Dhabi from April 26th until May 4th 1989. The Aramex team is invited by the Jordanian Community Club.

They will be one of 9 international teams participating in this 7-day tournament. Aramex will be sending 12 of its top players to participate. The players will arrive in Abu Dhabi on the 26th of April.

American banned, Canadian reinstated

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Canadian player Randy Carlyle, who tested positive in a preliminary dope test, has not taken any illegal drugs and can continue to play for his team at the world hockey championships, the International Ice Hockey Federation said Saturday.

It said Carlyle's urine sample showed negative results in the addition "B" test conducted late Friday night. He tested positive in a preliminary "A" test made after Wednesday's game against West Germany, which Canada won 8-2.

The IIHF doping control office informs that the "B" test of Canadian defenceman Randy Carlyle proved negative and the player is eligible to continue the tournament, said a brief statement.

The final ruling means that Canada is assured of a berth in the four-team medal round, together with the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and Sweden, despite a 6-5 loss to the Swedes Friday.

If Carlyle, who plays for the National Hockey League's Winnipeg Jets, had flunked the "B"

dope test, Canada would have been stripped of the two points it won against the West Germans and would be in jeopardy of failing to reach the playoffs.

Team USA centre Corey Milen was barred from the championships Friday and suspended for 18 months from international competition after he showed an abnormally high level of testosterone in two tests.

The IIHF ruling also erased the American team's goals against Czechoslovakia and Canada. The matches will be recorded as 5-0 and 8-0 losses instead of 5-4 and 8-2.

Milen, 24, a former University of Minnesota player, and U.S. team officials claim he has not taken any drugs and said they would appeal the IIHF ruling. The U.S. will play together with West Germany, Poland and Finland in the relegation pool. The last-placed team drops in the B group world championships next year.

Carlyle was scratched from the lineup before the game against Sweden Friday night after testing positive in the "A" test.



SPORTS IN BRIEF

De Castella withdraws from London marathon

LONDON (R) — Commonwealth champion Roh De Castella, one of the favourites for Sunday's London marathon, withdrew Saturday because of a torn knee tendon. De Castella, the 1983 world champion, withdrew after he was told he could be out of action for up to three months if he aggravated the injury. "I'm really sad," the Australian said. "I was in pretty good shape before the problem occurred. I had no indication of any problem two weeks ago, then, last Saturday, I felt some slight soreness during a run. I was having treatment and the injury was improving. But when I tested it on Thursday I knew there was a doubt."

Oakland A's Canseco on gun charge

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Oakland athletics outfielder Jose Canseco was arrested Friday and booked on a firearms charge, the San Francisco sheriff's department said. Canseco, 24, was arrested after a passer-by noticed a gun on the floor of his 1989 Red Jaguar, police said. A sheriff's spokesman said Canseco was booked on a charge of possessing a firearm in a prohibited area and released after posting \$5,000 bail. The felony charge carries a maximum three-year prison term. Canseco, the American League's most valuable player last season, hurriedly left the Hall of Justice without speaking to reporters. He has not played since suffering a wrist injury last month. It was Canseco's third brush with the law this year.

Egypt outclass Ethiopia

CAIRO (R) — Egypt crushed Ethiopia 6-1 Friday to reach the second round of the African Soccer Championship 6-2 on aggregate. The Egyptians were determined to avenge their first leg defeat and were rewarded when Gamal Abdel-Hamid scored a hat-trick, all of them headers. He struck in the fifth and 12th minutes and early in the second half. Ahmed El-Kass slotted home another Egyptian goal five minutes after the interval. The modest Ethiopians made a token reply when Mologita seized on the Egyptian's inability to clear from the penalty area. Hossam Hassan dodged two Ethiopian defenders and their goalkeeper to score easily in the 58th minute and completed the scoring 17 minutes later.

Davis wins easily but main rivals struggle

SHEFFIELD, England (R) — Titleholder Steve Davis sailed confidently into the quarter-finals but two of his main rivals struggled in second round matches at the World Snooker Championship Friday. Davis, the top seed, earned himself some extra time off by knocking out "underdog" Steve Duggan, a fellow-Englishman, 13-3 to reach the scheduled evening session. But second-seeded Jimmy White and John Parrott, the seventh seed, were being made to work harder than expected for the right to join Davis in the last eight. White was held to 8-8 after two sessions by English compatriot John Virgo, while Parrott, rated a primary contender for the title despite his seventh seeding, was 9-7 ahead of 1983 champion Dennis Taylor of Northern Ireland.

Act of sportsmanship costs Virgo victory

SHEFFIELD, England (R) — A fine act of sportsmanship by John Virgo almost certainly cost him the chance to upset fellow-Englishman Jimmy White in the second round of the World Snooker championship Saturday. Virgo, 12-11 up and one frame away from victory, was set to clear up until he brushed a red with his cue as he potted a black. Referee John Williams did not spot the foul but Virgo, without hesitation, walked back to his chair. "John would definitely have won the match from there," White said. "Certain players call themselves for fouls and John is one of them. He's a great sport."

Potter makes Nice double

NICE, France (R) — Jerome Potter of France made his way into his second successive Nice Open final, and only the second Grand Prix final of his 10-year professional career, with a 7-5, 6-4 win over Francesco Cancellotti of Italy Saturday. With swirling winds making it difficult for both players to judge their shots, Potter took advantage of the Italian's tentative service. It was the first time that Potter had won in straight sets in the tournament and he seemed nervous when he came in for the kill. Leading 5-2 in the second set he held a match point but could only return Cancellotti's serve into the net. The Italian went on to win the game and immediately broke Potter's service to 30. But Cancellotti again had problems on his next service game, giving away three more match points before Potter finally got into the net and put away an overhead winner. "I wasn't serving very well today. The wind bothered me a lot," Cancellotti said. "He was playing very well."

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This can be a very pleasant day if your expectations are kept reasonable and time schedules flexible. This is an A-plus day for conversation and unplanned light social gatherings.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Avoid extremes, and don't expect to be up early on this laid back day. Enjoy a sojourn with nature and the great outdoors.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Rise and shine. You are eager for adventure. If you have something that must be done today for tomorrow, do it early.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Plans should be put on hold until the financing is figured. You may be overly optimistic about cash flow. Let activities take their own course.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You are elated at your current status and that makes you fun to be with. There is a steady influence building self-esteem.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Confidence is up today. Enthusiastic youngsters have you on the go. A friend asks for an opinion on a matter best left unanswered.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22)

Money potential is good, but spending habits can break the bank. You will need patience in dealing with others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Plans are subject to change. Music and art can play a major role today. Share good news with someone of whom you are fond.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) It may be hard to separate fact from fiction when you do not have the whole story. Time spent alone can be productive.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A spiritual friend has some good advice. Routine chores can get done easily. It may be best to be a good listener and withhold opinions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Cooperation with others will produce a satisfying day. Personal obligations keep the schedule tight. Shopping will be difficult.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A change of scenery can put some ginger into a dull day. Find your own pleasure with mellow friends. Complete what you start.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Back off from a commitment which goes against your spiritual nature. Avoid clinging to the past. Do not overlook important details.

Forest retains cup hopes

LONDON (Agencies) — Nottingham Forest, a week ago involved in the fateful F.A. Cup tie in Sheffield, retained their slim hopes of catching English First Division pacemakers Arsenal and Liverpool by coming from behind to beat Middlesbrough 4-3 Saturday.

But third-placed Norwich, beaten by Everton in their F.A. Cup semifinal last week, experienced another disappointing afternoon when they squandered a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 at home with Aston Villa.

More than 500,000 fans from Brechin in Scotland to Plymouth in the English south-west, a distance of 1,120 kilometres observed one minute's silence before the first full soccer programme since the fateful F.A. Cup semifinal between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest.

To allow the silent mark of respect to those who died, games were delayed until 3.06 p.m., six minutes after scheduled kickoff time and the exact moment when last Saturday's semifinal was halted by the unfolding disaster at Sheffield.

The day's biggest crowd was at the one major stadium where no league soccer took place.

Over 250,000 people, some having waited for over five hours, streamed into Liverpool's Anfield Road ground to pay their respects to the Hillsborough victims. Liverpool postponed its title showdown against Arsenal, scheduled for Sunday, because it was too soon after the disaster.

Forest's win lifted them on to 57 points, nine behind leaders Arsenal and six adrift of defending champions Liverpool. The Arsenal-Liverpool top-of-the-table clash, due to have been played Sunday, has been postponed.

Norwich, whose bid for the championship has faltered in the past few weeks, have 58 points.

Norwich looked certain to put an end to their dismal run when they scored twice inside a minute through Dean Coney and Andy Townsend early in the second half.

But goals from Ian Olney and

Alan McNally, his 22nd of the season, gave Villa a share of the spoils.

Forest fell a goal behind to Stuart Ripley after 21 minutes, but they were quickly level through England midfielder Neil Webb.

They assumed complete control once Lee Chapman had scored the first of his two goals shortly before halftime. Garry Parker was the other Forest marksman.

Late goals by Bernie Slaven and Peter Davenport were more than Middlesbrough deserved.

A last-minute goal by Paul Walsh, his second of the match, completed Tottenham's Home League programme on a winning note when they beat Everton 2-1. Neil McDonald scored for the F.A. Cup finalists in the 83rd minute.

Charlton, perennial relegation candidates, improved their chances of again escaping the drop by beating Manchester United 1-0 with a seventh minute penalty by Mark Reid, and fellow Londoners West Ham sparked new life into their fast fading hopes of staying in the First Division with a 3-0 drubbing of Millwall.

The much needed win for the bottom club, who scored all of their goals in a 25-minute spell in the first half, was only their second at home in 18 league matches.

But West Ham still have a mountain to climb. They are four points adrift of Newcastle and six behind Luton, the two clubs immediately above them who drew 0-0 at Newcastle.

Chelsea made sure of returning to the First Division after just one season's absence when they beat Leeds 1-0 at home. John Barnes scored the all-important goal after 54 minutes.

In Scotland, Glasgow Rangers moved a step nearer to clinching the Premier League title with a 2-0 win at St. Mirren while closest pursuers Aberdeen lost 1-0 to Hearts.

Rangers, for whom Ian Ferguson scored after 40 minutes and Ally McCoist after 84, now need only three points from four games to be certain of regaining the title from Glasgow rivals Celtic, who came from behind to beat Dundee 2-1.

Mike Galloway's 14th minute headed goal decided Hearts' closely fought match with Aber-

Breland's reach may give him advantage

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) — Reach could very well be the difference Saturday when Mark Breland begins defence of his recently regained WBA welterweight title in a 12-round bout against Rafael Pineda of Colombia.

Breland will enjoy a tremendous size advantage against the undefeated Pineda, who is only 5-6, in this title defence that was hastily put together less than a month ago. The original bout was to pit Breland against Nemesis Marion Stirling, the only boxer to blemish Breland's 25-1 record.

However, Stirling suffered a rotator cuff injury three weeks ago and was forced to withdraw from the bout originally scheduled for April 15. When a second title fight scheduled for this weekend at Trump Casino also was postponed because of an injury, the Breland-Pineda match was scheduled.

"I don't know that much about him," Breland said Thursday. "He's a typical Latin fighter. There is a lot of body punching. He has a good right and throws a good hook."

Reach is what Breland will have, three inches to be precise, 77-74.

"It's an advantage if you use it right," Breland said. "I have to keep him back, keep him off me."

Pineda, 22, can be tough if he gets inside. The no. 1 rated contender is 20-0, and 19 of those victories have come by knockout.

The most recent was a fourth-round KO of Yogi Buchanan in Las Vegas, Nevada, on Feb. 4.

McEnroe suffers windy loss

TOKYO (R) — Defending champion John McEnroe blamed "a joke" stadium for his 6-4, 6-3 defeat by cool Swede Stefan Edberg in the semifinals of the \$752,500 Japan Open tennis tournament Saturday.

Edberg's win avenged his loss to McEnroe in last year's final and earned him another shot at the trophy — this time against Ivan Lendl, who beat American Richard Matsuzaki 6-2, 6-2.

McEnroe said a gusting wind had made a mockery of his game. "Hopefully next year they will build an indoor stadium instead

of playing in a (windy) situation like that. It is a joke," said the third seed.

The centre court at Ariake Coliseum stadium on reclaimed land in Tokyo Bay sometimes acts as a funnel to wind which whips off the surrounding sea.

Edberg, the second seed, fell quickly into his crisp serve-and-volley game, breaking the American's serve in the seventh game.

In that game McEnroe had clawed back from three break points against him but his resistance crumbled when, after a long rally of groundstrokes curling and

dipping in wind, the Swede touched a topspin lob over his head. McEnroe spun around to give chase, only to see the ball land just within his baseline.

McEnroe avoided tantrums during the match but his infamous temper flared in the second set as he told linesmen not to call "fault" so loudly.

"Are you guys having a screaming contest?" he yelled.

Edberg, ranked fifth in the world, broke McEnroe in the first and third games of set two, only to let the American break back in the fourth.

Detroit makes 20th home win

NEW YORK (AP) — Mark Aguirre and Isiah Thomas each scored six points during a 14-4 third-quarter sprint Friday as the Detroit Pistons defeated the Philadelphia 76ers 100-91 for a club-record 20th straight home-court triumph.

The Pistons' fourth straight victory gave them a 36-4 home-court mark and raised their record, the best in the National Basketball Association, to 62-19.

The Pistons took control in the third quarter when they outscored Philadelphia 31-21 to turn a 45-40 halftime lead into a 76-61 advantage entering the final period.

Aguirre led the Pistons with 22 points. Ron Anderson paced Philadelphia with 18 points.

Ricky Pierce scored 21 points, including 10 straight in the fourth period, as the Milwaukee Bucks defeated Charlotte 117-110 in the Hornets' home finale.

A basket by Moses Malone and two free throws apiece by Cliff Levingston and Reggie Theus boosted the Atlanta Hawks from a one-point deficit in the final two minutes to a 92-89 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Roy Tarpley scored 33 points,

including two free throws with eight seconds left, as the Dallas Mavericks kept their dim NBA playoff hopes alive with a 91-89 victory over the Utah Jazz.

Rookie Rick Smith scored 23 points and Indiana outscored Boston 17-4 to open the final period as the Pacers defeated the Celtics 120-110.

Scottie Pippen's 3-point basket with 1:41 remaining broke a 108-108 deadlock and Michael Jordan recorded his 15th triple-double of the season as the Chicago Bulls defeated the Washington Bullets 115-113.

Alex English's 30 points led seven Denver players in double figures as the Nuggets ended a seven-game road losing streak with a 139-121 victory over the

slumping Golden State Warriors. Magic Johnson scored 17 of his 23 points in the second half as the Los Angeles Lakers beat Portland 121-114 to clinch their eighth straight Pacific Division title and the no. 1 playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Akeem Oluajun had 19 rebounds, eight blocked shots and scored eight of his 25 points in a final four minutes as the Phoenix Suns beat the Phoenix Suns 112-101, clinching the no. 5 seed in the Western Conference playoffs.

With Xavier McDaniel hitting two baskets, the Seattle SuperSonics scored the first seven points in overtime and went on to defeat the Los Angeles Clippers 129-136.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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YOU BE THE JUDGE

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ J 10 6		♠ 3	
♥ 8 2		♥ A K 7 5	
♦ A K 7 5		♦ K J 6 3	
♣ K J 6 3		♣ A Q 4	
		♥ J 9 6 5 4	
		♦ Q 10	
		♣ 9 8 3	
		♦ Q J 10 2	
		♣ Q 2	
		♠ A 10 9 8 7 4	
		♥ K 9 8 7 5 2	
		♦ A K 7 3	
		♣ 6 4	
		♠ 5	

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠
Take a good look at all four hands. Study the bidding and play and then decide whether any or none of the players is culpable of wrongdoing.

Four spades seems a normal enough contract to reach. West led the queen of his partner's suit, covered by the king and won by the ace. East shifted to a trump, and West won the queen and ace, then led a

third round. Declarer had two losing hearts to contend with, and only one high card in dummy on which to take a discard. Down one.

The first-charge must go to West for failing to contest the auction. When partner makes a two-level overall, he usually has a six-card suit, or an excellent five-bagger. Therefore, Q x is adequate support and, with the ace-queen of spades behind the spade-bidder, West had more than enough to raise to three clubs.

The major blunder, however, is South's. His contract is secure unless the defenders can draw all dummy's trumps before he can ruff his heart loser. With West on lead, that is an impossible task for the defenders, so declarer should have played a low club from dummy at trick one!

If West continues with a club, declarer can ruff out the ace and ruff two hearts on the table, using a diamond ruff as an entry to the closed hand. Even if East can over-ruff, declarer loses only two trumps and a club. And if East overtakes the queen of clubs with the ace to shift to a trump, he sets up two club tricks on the board to take care of declarer's heart losers. Simple, once you think about it.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I don't care about my cholesterol anymore! Stop stuffing me with oat bran!!"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OEPLE
ADURF
EXDOUT
INOUSC

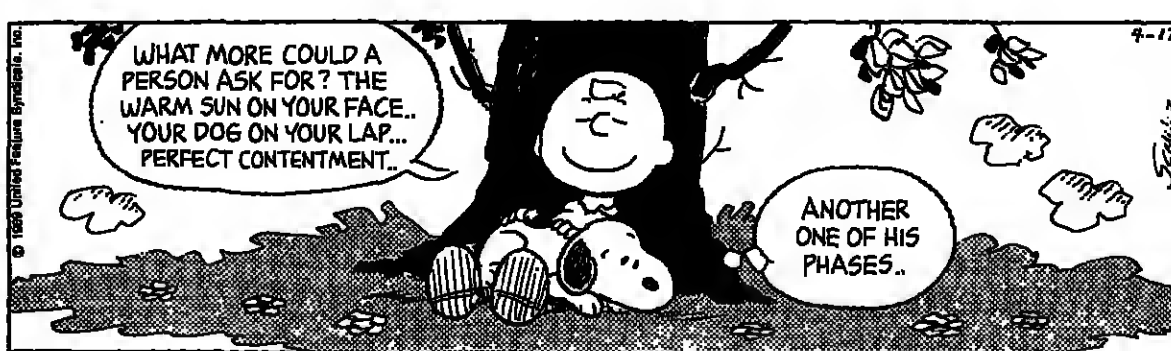
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

NAME: THEY

Answers tomorrow

Saturday's Jumble: MERGE SHAKY DECADE LAWFUL
Answer: When you put a man on the back he often ends up with this — A SWELLED HEAD

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Chinese push for democracy

PEKING (AP) — Up to 150,000 students and their supporters, waving fists and chanting "long live freedom," demonstrated Saturday against the communist system as China's leaders watched from behind a wall of soldiers.

Facing more than 8,000 troops, students shouted, "down with dictatorship," "down with corruption" while top members of the Communist Party hierarchy fled out of a funeral for ousted party chief Hu Yaobang.

The protest in Tiananmen Square, the symbolic political centre of China, was one of the most pointed against the communist system in the world's most populous country. It also marked the culmination of a week-long commemoration of Hu's death last Saturday.

During 15 hours of demonstrations that featured no significant violence, the students waved coloured pro-democracy banners and turned the plaza into a sea of red and white banners.

The students chanted anti-government slogans as China's leaders fled into a memorial service for Hu in the Great Hall, Hu, who died of a heart attack, was 73.

The turnout was one of the largest in China since the communist victory over the Nationalists in 1949, and the biggest in 13 years, when the death of premier

Chou En-Lai sparked an outpouring of grief and anger toward the leftist government and an end to the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution.

But in contrast to the bloody, spontaneous 1976 protest, Saturday's activities were well organized and left few people injured.

The government has rejected all the students' demands, including greater freedom of speech and press, more money for education, disclosure of the incomes of top officials and reassessment of Hu's historical role.

When the students ended their demonstration, they departed peacefully in groups that represented about 30 universities in Peking and other cities.

In Shanghai, about 1,500 people marched through downtown, also to commemorate Hu's death. Earlier Saturday, about 2,000 students marched on the campus of East Normal University.

In Peking, the traffic was stopped along Chang'an Boulevard, the capital's main avenue, and people climbed trees to get a better view of the procession.

The students said they would go back to their campuses and



Chinese students place wreaths and gather in Peking's Tiananmen Square to honour Hu Yaobang

boycott classes.

When the 4,000 officials attending the ceremony started to arrive Saturday morning, the students let out a roar and waved their banners.

Some officials, protected by a triple line of military troops, stopped momentarily to listen.

During the ceremony, party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang praised his predecessor, saying "as a Marxist, Hu Yaobang led a glorious life."

Hu was forced to resign in disgrace in January 1987 after

being accused by party conservatives of being soft on student demonstrators and Western liberal ideas.

Zhao's 10-minute speech, before a large portrait of Hu draped in black hunting, made no specific mention of Hu's ouster and did not, as demanded by the students, attempt to reassess Hu's performance.

Zhao said only that Hu was a man "brave enough to admit his mistakes and to insist upon what he thought was right. He never tried to hold back his opinions."

North jury completes first day of 'serious' deliberations

WASHINGTON (R) — Oliver North's Iran-contra jury got down to business Friday by asking for pencils, paper, paperclips and many copies of the judge's legal instructions to aid their first day of deliberations.

The nine-woman, three-man panel spent five-and-a-half hours deliberating North's fate Friday and were set to continue with a half-day of deliberations Saturday.

The charges stem from North's role in the 1985-86 plan to sell arms to Iran in exchange for hostages and send the proceeds to the Nicaraguan contras at a time when this was outlawed by Congress.

The 45-year-old ex-marine faces up to \$3 million in fines and 14 years in prison if convicted on all 12 counts.

Within hours of their first dis-

cussions in the federal court jury room, the panel sent out notes asking for office supplies and extra copies of the 96-page legal instructions which are the last words a jury hears before being sequestered.

Headed by a 34-year-old hospital secretary, the jury is expected to sift through more than 300 pieces of evidence and consider testimony from 48 witnesses, including North himself.

The instructions issued by trial Judge Gerhard Gesell undercut two of North's key contentions in the 12-week trial.

The fired White House aide's attorneys had argued that North was a loyal marine following orders from the highest officials in the Reagan government, and asked that the jury be allowed to consider that authorization when deciding North's guilt or inno-

cence.

But Gesell said that authorization was an excuse, not a defence. "Neither the president nor any of the defendant's superiors had the legal authority to order anyone to violate the law," the judge said.

The judge also discounted North's claim that while he knew some of the things he did to carry out the Iran-contra plan were wrong, he never acted with criminal intent.

Gesell said a finding of criminal intent was necessary for a conviction in only one of the charges against North — the charge that he shredded or altered government documents.



Oliver North

illegally using traveller's checks from an account earmarked for the contras, illegally using a tax-exempt organisation to get military supplies to the contras and illegally accepting a \$14,000 home security system while a government employee.

Ethnic strife can kill reform — Medvedev

MOSCOW (AP) — The Kremlin's ideology chief pledged Friday that Soviet republics will gain more autonomy under reforms expected this year and warned that ethnic strife can kill President Mikhail Gorbachev's restructuring effort.

Comments by Vadim A. Medvedev at a meeting dedicated to the birthday of Soviet founder Vladimir I. Lenin came as the country struggles with the aftermath of a bloody clash between protesters and soldiers in the Georgian capital Tbilisi that killed 20 people.

Medvedev said, "the party is convinced the solution of the complicated problems of national relations is impossible outside perestroika, and perestroika cannot be implemented without the cooperation, mutual action and

unity of Soviet peoples."

"It is important that one nation not be set against another," he said in his nationally televised speech. "We firmly say 'yes' to national sentiments and national pride, 'no' to national exclusivity and antagonism."

Soviet officials have promised a meeting of the policy-making Communist Party Central Committee this year to take up ethnic issues that have caused tensions in the Caucasus republics, the Baltics and elsewhere.

That meeting had been scheduled for summer, but Medvedev's comments indicated they might be discussed at a meeting next week.

Other top officials have confirmed that the Central Committee will meet Tuesday, and Med-

vedev told the gathering that the issue will come up at the next Central Committee meeting.

The ruling Politburo, at a meeting Thursday, instructed the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee to investigate the April 9 clash, the TASS news agency reported Friday.

Medvedev said the essence of the reform is "the harmonisation of the interests of all nations and peoples of the country on the principles of independence, responsibility and mutual assistance."

"Great attention will be paid to the creation of real conditions for the full-blooded economic, governmental, legal, and cultural functioning of the republics, to the strengthening of the status of autonomy, to the carrying out of

the rights of national minorities including the formation of national regions, rural and village councils, and the securing of rights and freedoms for Soviet citizens of all nationalities," he said.

A government commission is investigating charges that the soldiers used shovels, truncheons, tear gas and a still-identified chemical substance on the Georgian demonstrators.

Activists have said that several people died from chemical poisoning, but Moscow officials have not confirmed that.

A member of the Georgian Health Ministry Commission that has been examining victims of the clash said in an interview on national television Friday that the panel believes unanimously that two chemical substances were used.

Bonn campaigns for early talks on short-range missile cuts

BONN (AP) — The West German government will press the United States to agree to early superpower talks on the reduction of short-range nuclear missiles, officials said Friday.

Government officials, speaking on condition of strict anonymity, said that Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher and Defence Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg would urge Washington to end its opposition to early talks with the Soviet Union on the missiles issue.

The decision came out of talks between leaders of the government's ruling coalition parties which forged a common policy on the missiles debate, sources said.

Genscher and Stoltenberg are scheduled to fly to Washington Monday for talks with U.S. offi-

cials.

West Germany has resisted strong U.S. and British calls to upgrade the current aging generation of short-range nuclear missiles.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl wants the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to postpone a decision on the missiles until after West Germany's national election in December 1990.

Kohl's party has lost heavily in recent state elections and a decision to replace the ageing missiles with new weapons would be unpopular with voters in West Germany, where the current missiles are deployed.

Genscher has repeatedly called for early talks with the Warsaw pact to reduce the number of short-range missiles.

The United States and Great Britain are strongly opposed to early talks, contending that Warsaw Pact superiority in conventional weapons requires a Western nuclear deterrent of short-range weapons.

A two-day meeting of NATO defence ministers that ended Thursday in Brussels sidestepped the issue.

Government sources said that during the coalition talks, leaders of Bavaria's conservative Christian Social Union Party agreed to drop their long-standing opposition to early talks on short-range missiles.

The position paper also reiterates Kohl's view that a West German decision on deployment of the modernised weapons is not necessary until 1991 or 1992.

Philippine rebels claim killing of U.S. colonel

MANILA (R) — Communist rebels, accusing Washington of interfering in the Philippines' long-running insurgency war, claimed responsibility Saturday for the killing of a U.S. army colonel in Manila.

The communist New People's Army (NPA) said in a statement its guerrillas ambushed and shot Colonel James Rowe, a 51-year-old U.S. counter-insurgency expert and Vietnam war veteran, because he was directly involved in the fight against them.

It was the first time the NPA had hit a serving U.S. officer in the Philippines, one of Washing-

ton's closest allies and host to the giant U.S. Clark and Subic Bay military bases.

His killing appeared to signal a new offensive by the NPA against U.S. military targets as part of a campaign to get the American bases out of the Philippines.

The NPA also bombed a U.S. communications centre near Baguio in the northern Philippines this month and planted landmines near the Clark Base. Neither incident caused any casualties.

"The death of Colonel Rowe signifies the firm commitment of the revolutionary forces to con-

tinue military actions against U.S. personnel," said the statement, which was signed by the NPA's Romulo Kintanar.

It said the presence of U.S. military bases in the country was a symbol of American arrogance and that the U.S.-supported Aquino administration must take the blame for Rowe's murder.

Rowe was shot dead by hooded gunmen Friday morning outside the joint U.S. military advisers group headquarters where he worked.

He helped the Philippine military with counter-insurgency techniques.

Walesa lauds Gorbachev reforms

ROME (R) — Lech Walesa Saturday praised Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms and said Poland's transformation depended on their success.

"We wish Mr. Gorbachev and his reforms well because these reforms are necessary," the Solidarity leader told a news conference ending a four-day visit to Rome and the Vatican.

"We don't want to do anything that would upset perestroika and glasnost," Walesa said, referring to Gorbachev's policy of restructuring and openness.

Walesa, who was given a hero's welcome and whose schedule heeded a head of state, said the outcome of Gorbachev's reforms

would inevitably affect change in Poland.

"Every country depends on each other, in good and in bad," he said. "The Soviet Union is a superpower and whatever happens there influences Europe and the world."

"That is why we all watch whatever happens in that country, sometimes with concern, sometimes with happiness. We want the (Soviet) reforms to succeed because we are making reforms too."

Walesa's visit to Italy was his first abroad since an agreement between government and opposition April 5 paved the way for liberalisation in Poland and the

legalisation of the Solidarity independent trade union.

Walesa has used the trip to drum up Western support and investment for the new Poland. He told bankers and businessmen Friday they could find big profits because Poland needed "everything from spoons to satellites."

Poland now needed support from the rest of Europe more than at any time since World War II, he said.

"The responsibility for our success or failure will also be yours. We are not an island," he said. "We are coming out of hiding... we invite everyone to come to Poland to help us succeed."

COLUMN 800000

Sisters' rich dream turns true

CHICAGO (AP) — Two sisters who kidded each other about getting rich were revealed Tuesday as the wealthy holders of one of four winning tickets from a world-record \$69.9 million lotto jackpot. Linda and Barbara Lambert will share almost \$17.5 million. They join two family clans announced as winners of two other tickets Monday. Illinois state lottery officials said. The identity of the fourth winner has not been revealed. At a news conference, the Lamberts described their feelings when the lottery numbers were drawn Saturday night. "She called me and said, 'we won,'" Linda said. "By the third time she said it, I knew she wasn't kidding." Linda Lambert, 39, is a high school biology teacher and lives in Forest Lake, northwest of Chicago. Her sister, who would say only that she was the older of the two, lives in Chicago and is a solid-waste programme manager for the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Linda Lambert said she and her sister played the lottery regularly and once joked about opening a business "slinging pizzas" if they ever won. She said she plans to use her share of the money to write children's books, but has no immediate plans to quit her job.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	04	39	10 50 Cloudy
ATHENS	13	25	79 77 Clear
BANGKOK	23	73	73 91 Clear
BANGKOK	27	81	37 99 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	14	57	53 73 Clear
CARRO	19	86	33 91 Clear
CHICAGO	06	45	16 61 Clear
COPENHAGEN	12	54	17 63 Clear
FRANKFURT	07	45	12 54 Clear
GENEVA	07	45	10 50 Cloudy
HONGKONG	22	77	33 92 Clear
STANBUL	11	52	19 64 Clear
LONDON	05	41	11 52 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	15	59	23 73 Cloudy
MADRID	06	48	19 56 Clear
MEXICO	25	77	40 104 Cloudy
MIAMI	21	89	28 93 Clear
MONTREAL	-02	28	13 55 Cloudy
MOSCOW	02	36	09 48 Clear
NEW DELHI	21	69	33 98 Clear
NEW YORK	10	50	21 69 Cloudy
PARIS	05	41	09 48 Cloudy
ROME	05	41	20 68 Cloudy
TOKYO	12	53	30 68 Clear
VIENNA	10	50	15 52 Clear

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Etkin

TAKE THE COUNT

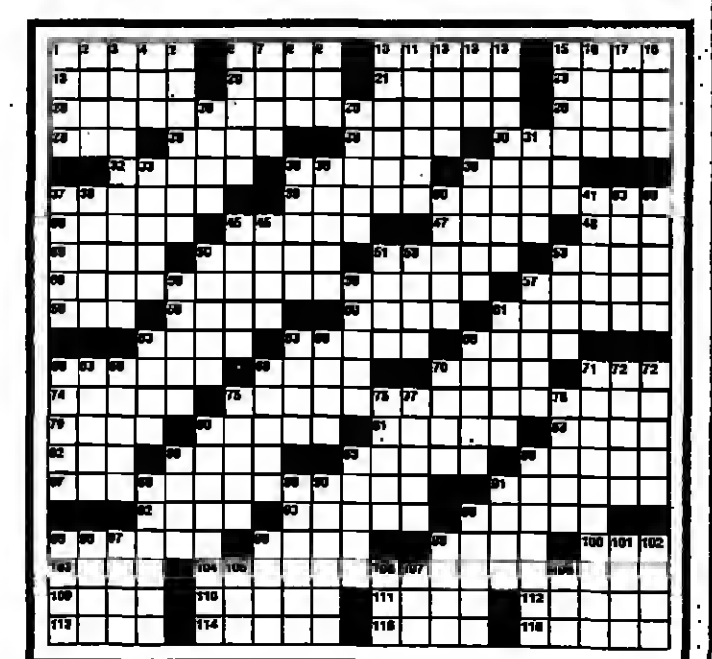
By Gayle Day

- ACROSS
- Phrase or expression
 - Subject that counts
 - Crystal-lined rock
 - Ornate title
 - Peace goddess
 - Ad in the supporting role
 - Landlord's
 - Turt
 - Adapt
 - Narrative poem
 - Kalashari
 - deception
 - Animated
 - Gem
 - Family circle
 - Grant
 - Cryptographer's
 - Wine genre
 - Barber's name
 - Believing
 - Need
 - Course
 - 100 Draft letters
 - Agard
 - denies
 - Priority file
 - 108 Champagne cap
 - 110 Culture channel
 - 111 "Diss —"
 - 112 The end
 - Problems
 - 114 Woodland
 - goat-man
 - 115 Cartography
 - Items
 - 116 Out of practice
 - Order to appear
 - Gratitude
 - 30 More plump
 - Claviers
 - 04 Leaves
 - 05 Converging points
 - 06 Reversed one
 - 07 Colleen
 - 08 Wise word
 - 09 Clench
 - 101 Officer
 - 102 Dockworkers
 - 103 Pronoun
 - 107 A Gershwin
 - 108 Haw. building
 - 05 Try to
 - 63 Lighting device
- DOWN
- 1 Tastes
 - 2 Column
 - 3 "You can — to water"
 - 4 Some
 - 5 Breathe
 - 6 Personal
 - 7 Healing plant
 - 8 Stamen
 - 9 "Mary —"
 - 10 Complained
 - 11 Phenomenon
 - 12 Vegas members
 - 13 Neighbor of Md.
 - 14 Redwoods
 - 15 Polaris
 - 16 L. a. W
 - 17 It's sometimes
 - 18 Apportion
 - 19 Road part
 - 20 Smaller number
 - 21 Don't land
 - 22 Naming
 - 23 Reception
 - 24 Hero of a whale
 - 25 Felt. apt.
 - 26 Mistletoe
 - 27 Felt. apt.
 - 28 Leave
 - 29 Crispy one
 - 30 Like team
 - 31 Waterway
 - 32 Big Arthur role
 - 33 Impulse
 - 34 Soft in taste
 - 35 Singing voice
 - 36 Rise people
 - 37 Unclashed
 - 38 Felt. apt.
 - 39 Vocal square
 - 40 Left in the
 - 41 Lurch
 - 42 Commemoration
 - 43 More genital
 - 44 Victim
 - 45 Standard
 - 46 March date
 - 47 New a apt
 - 48 Selfish fish
 - 49 Personal name
 - 50 Benefit
 - 51 Treasure locker
 - 52 No. 10, or
 - 53 Sarcasm
 - 54 Writing
 - 55 Soft kid
 - 56 Turbulent
 - 57 Sign of sorrow
 - 58 Superstar
 - 59 Tube or peace
 - 60 Logrolling
 - 61 Humoral
 - 62 Exhibitionist
 - 63 At a distance
 - 64 Comic Johnson
 - 65 Clarity
 - 66 Whiffle
 - 67 Emile or Gomer
 - 68 Type of
 - 69 Assure
 - 70 Turn down
 - 71 Close
 - 72 Taper
 - 73 Lifted device

Diagramless

10 X 19, By Roger Cohen

- ACROSS
- Brail
 - Partly's
 - Reverb
 - Wright or Cop
 - Put away for
 - 12 Try
 - 13 bien
 - 14 Telephone word
 - 15 Sp. ldy. abbr.
 - 16 Cop
 - 21 E.T. e.g.
 - 22 Puccini opera
 - 23 Fundamentals
 - 24 Fed. apt.
 - 25 Like — of
 - 26 Bricks
 - 27 Thrush hangs a —
 - 28 Cull
 - 29 Go on and on
 - 30 Step —
 - 31 FBI up
 - 32 Sp. ldy. abbr.
 - 33 Selenite
 - 34 Briefly
 - 35 Leaves port
 - 36 Stopped
 - 37 Gorse
 - 38 Subordinate
 - 39 Woodwind
 - 40 Rush order
 - 41 Harvest
 - 42 Actor Ray
 - 43 Sinner by
 - 44 John, Jean or Walter
 - 45 Coral ridges
 - 46 Desk item
 - 47 Clarity
 - 48 Fur
 - 49 Dry call posts
 - 50 Type of
 - 51 Putting
 - 52 Put to work
 - 53 Souquet
 - 54 Priority to
 - 55 Type of school

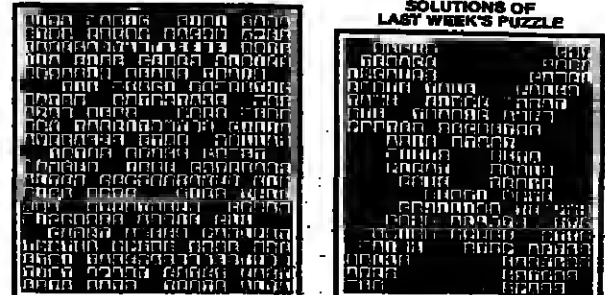


Last Week's Cryptograms

- Anyone knows that free whiskey makes many a week man frisky. Neal!
- Lumpsum summer night rhapsody: Coyotes howl and owls hoot while insects buzz along.
- Criminal kid wanted to know whether meekers grew on shoe trees.
- This old house could collapse under new prime mortgage weight.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. DXX OVCAVXVC BXZSIE MVVK BIFVLJXWR
KZB ZFXAB XJYV JX GZEMVC JXB AVBBS
A LJV GIXKH GEVXWHL. —By Gordon Miller
2. BOX XPLBO RNZB HA PLANET UE WULWYXZ
FXWPNZX UB'Z UE ALFUB. DOM TAXZ BOX
HXILBEXB PYDPMZ DPIX BA TA BOX
ZPRX BOUET. —Lan Sherry
3. BURO NO H PZXT MWANOV. HXX
HMWHANVEM CEDRAM HAZ HUNT ND
RCBNA HUPHZNZO. —By Corrie Rosenfeld
4. ECHSBCN BYGINSECT NXMOYXN THELEU
UBNABTALB VDHX BCKMARK ASNX
VGTNSHER IMABLT. —By Ed Haddigan



WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Bush opts for missile mix

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush, opting for compromise in his first major defence policy move, has decided to redeploy existing MX missiles on trains to improve their chances of evading attack as well as to develop a mobile Midgetman missile. Administration sources said Bush was expected to announce the decision formally by Monday when new Defence Secretary Dick Cheney is to submit to Congress his budget plan for the next fiscal year. U.S. officials and members of Congress have debated for a decade whether to make MX missiles movable so they could evade Soviet attacks in a nuclear war, or switch instead to the mobile Midgetman. Concerns about the size of the federal deficit have been a major factor in the debate. In committing himself to the two programmes, Bush is acting against the advice of his defence secretary, who had recommended scrapping the Midgetman plan to pare back the defence budget.

Lucille Ball doing well after surgery

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Flowers, phone calls and telephone facsimiles flooded Cedars-Sinai medical center on Friday, as they have since Lucille Ball received a transplanted piece of critical heart artery during emergency surgery Tuesday night. The 77-year-old redhead, whose reign as queen of American comedy continues in reruns of the "I Love Lucy Show," continued to bounce back quickly, hospital spokesman Ron Wise said. "She's going to be uncomfortable for a few days, but she's making significant progress," Wise said, adding that a "tidal wave" of greeting cards had arrived.

Brazil floods leave thousands homeless

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Heavy rains and floods have left 46,000 people homeless in Ceara state in northeastern Brazil, civil defence authorities said Friday. The Jaguaribe river, one of

Ceara's main rivers, overflowed its banks and left 2 metres of water in fields and nine municipalities, civil defence worker Socorro Martins said. "The crops are lost and there are serious outbreaks of pneumonia, fever and diarrhoea," Martins said by telephone from Fortaleza, the Ceara state capital 2,732 kilometres northeast of Rio de Janeiro. The homeless, mostly poor rural workers, were being put up in schools, government buildings and canvas tents, she said.

Indian state assembly dissolved

NEW DELHI (AP) — The government of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party Friday dissolved the legislative assembly in opposition-ruled Karnataka state, news reports said. Federal Home Minister Buta Singh said in parliament the assembly was dissolved after the Janata Dal Party lost its majority. The state, in southern India, has been brought under federal rule. Under the law, a new state assembly must be elected within a year. The Press Trust of India news agency said Singh's announcement was made amid protests from opposition members. The Janata Dal Party, headed by former Defence Minister V.P. Singh, held 111 of the 222 seats in the house.

Exxon dumps into lake

NEW ORLEANS (R) — An Exxon barge ruptured in an ecologically-sensitive river basin in the southern United States Friday, dumping more than 1,136,000 litres of oily waste into a lake, state officials said. The barge was being unloaded when it buckled in the middle and ruptured, an Exxon spokesman said. "I think we feel the danger, if any, is very remote because the hydrocarbon content of the stream is very small, probably less than one per cent," Exxon spokesman Bryan Brabston said. He said the waste was 90 per cent water, three per cent oil and seven per cent alcohol and other water-soluble chemicals such as methanol.